

MPs demand compensation for victims in £180m scandal

Papers were shredded at Clowes HQ

By Lawrence Lever and Martin Fletcher

A former employee of Barlow Clowes has told *The Times* that documents and letters were deliberately shredded at the company's headquarters after Department of Trade and Industry inspectors moved into the crashed investment company last November.

The revelation came as senior MPs of all parties yesterday demanded that Lord Young of Graffham, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, make a full statement to Parliament about his ministry's conduct in licensing Barlow Clowes.

They said that the Government should compensate the victims who invested more

than £180 million in Barlow Clowes if it was proved that the Department of Trade and Industry had failed in its statutory duty to vet the company before giving it a securities licence in 1985.

The employee, at the headquarters in Poynton, Cheshire, said that staff were

Mr Peter Clowes said last night that none of his clients' money has been used to pay for yachts, executive jets or personal business interests.

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instructed to remove correspondence from files and shred it before they were flown out to repeat the exercise at the company's Gibraltar office.

The correspondence which was allegedly destroyed included instructions from Barlow Clowes to transfer their money from the London arm of Barlow Clowes to the Gibraltar operation. It also included letters from investors asking about their tax position.

Staff at Barlow Clowes were told to keep details of a private property company called Megerberry secret from the inspectors.

Documents relating to International Trust Company, an Isle of Man company, were also removed from files and destroyed, the employee said.

Barlow Clowes was closed down last month by the High Court acting on a petition presented by the Securities and Investments Board, the new City watchdog.

The SIB told the court how it had uncovered evidence of clients' records being falsified, of deficient accounting and of "seriously inaccurate" returns being submitted to the DTI.

However, Mr Stanley Wright, the man who replaced him as chairman, said yesterday: "I have absolutely no knowledge of shredding taking place in Poynton. I was a non-executive director until the past few days."

"If I were aware of actions of this kind being taken I would not be a member of the board now."

The employee has told *The Times* that the destruction of

documents went far beyond the routine shredding which was normally done at Barlow Clowes.

"There was no question about it. It was definitely a panic measure. The files were gone through and papers were removed from them. Some papers were letters about tax returns. If people had invested in Portfolio 30 [the UK operation] and wanted to move into Portfolio 68 [the Gibraltar arm], the papers requesting this were removed."

"The DTI were working in the top floor of the building and the shredding was going on on the bottom floor."

"But most of it was happening after work and at weekends. The local taxi firm across the way remarked on how late people were working."

MPs' demands came as the DTI refused to make a statement on yesterday's disclosure in *The Times* that it had ignored explicit top-level warnings about the company before issuing its licence, and that the company had already been trading illegally for more than a year.

The Times revealed that the National Association of Security Dealers and Investment Managers (Nasdim), a City watchdog, had warned the DTI about Barlow Clowes four years ago.

It also disclosed that there was strong evidence that the company had been trading illegally before receiving the licence. None the less, after considering the company's application for several months, the DTI issued the licence on October 28, 1985.

A DTI spokesman said that before 1985 Barlow Clowes was a partnership and therefore not subject to the Companies Act. This limited the DTI's scope for investigation.

Later the DTI had persuaded Barlow Clowes to become a company under the terms of the Act, and it had issued a securities licence when it was satisfied that it complied with all the requirements.

The spokesman acknowledged that the DTI had had powers to investigate Barlow Clowes under the Prevention of Fraud Investment Act, but said these were very limited.



Mr Peter Clowes in his Poynton, Cheshire, office yesterday. Earlier this week he resigned as chief executive and chairman of James Ferguson, the parent company of Barlow Clowes.

Meacher loses his libel case against Observer

By Robin Young

Mr Michael Meacher, the Labour Party's spokesman on employment, yesterday lost his 14-day libel action against *The Observer*. He immediately said he intended to appeal, while Mr Donald Treford, the editor of *The Observer*, claimed to have won a victory essential to press freedom.

It took the High Court jury of nine men and two women less than 90 minutes to decide that Mr Meacher, MP for Oldham West since 1970, had not been libelled in an article written by Mr Alan Watkins. *The Observer's* political diarist, in November 1984.

Mr Meacher had complained that the article, in which he was likened to a louse, accused him of lying about his family background to ingratiate himself with the Labour Party or the electorate.

As the jury foreman announced the verdict, Mr Meacher blanched and glanced at the crowded press box, blinking twice, but remained otherwise impassive.

Outside the court he said: "This is not the end of the matter. There are many disturbing aspects to this case. I have discussed the matter with my solicitors and lawyers and they have advised me that I have very strong grounds for appeal. A notice of appeal will, therefore, be served on *The Observer* on Monday."

Mr Treford said that any appeal would be vigorously resisted. He said: "There is a tradition in this country of trenchant political comment and I think that would have been imperilled if we had lost this case."

"I understand there have

been 39 successive libel cases in which the newspapers have lost. This one turns the tide. It was essential to the freedom of the press that we should win."

Mr Treford said he was personally sorry that Mr Meacher had been left with heavy costs, which are unofficially estimated to approach £200,000, but *The Observer* had made many attempts to settle the case which had been refused.

"We have been vindicated," Mr Treford said. "I think it was quite clear from the judge's summing-up that this case should never have come to court. Politicians have got to learn to give and take with the rough and tumble of political life."

Mr Justice Hazan dismissed a request from Mr Gordon

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Satellite plan for BBC2 stuns television chiefs

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Britain's broadcasting revolution gained pace last night as the Government announced proposals which could result in television viewers needing a satellite dish to receive BBC2 and Channel 4.

The radical scheme, announced only 48 hours after Mr Rupert Murdoch's Sky Television Company revealed proposals to beam four new satellite channels into British homes early next year, left broadcasting chiefs bewildered.

The Whitehall blueprint envisages using two spare channels on the satellite due to be launched by British Satellite Broadcasting (BSB) for beaming BBC2 and Channel 4 from space. The UHF frequencies now used by the two channels could then at some future date be released for at least two new land-based television stations, almost certainly financed by advertising.

The Government proposals, announced jointly by the Home Office and the Department of Trade and Industry, represent the personal ideas of Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

His proposals, made known within Whitehall last month, are the real reason for the delay in producing the Government's broadcasting White Paper, which now may not appear before the end of the year. They also indicate that Lord Young's department has wrested control of broadcasting policy from the Home Office.

The Whitehall statement yesterday said: "As part of its consideration of the technical possibilities for additional television channels, the Government is holding exploratory discussions with the chairmen of the BBC, the IBA and BSB, to examine the

possibility of arranging for BBC 2 and Channel 4 to be transmitted by satellite. One option would be to use the high-powered satellite which BSB plans to launch next year."

"The Government has taken no decisions on the merits of such an approach. The purpose of the discussions is to examine its technical, commercial and financial viability. The Government will also be examining its wider implications for the broadcasting system."

Lord Young, who is determined to provide more air

Risk denied...3

space for advertisers, will also see his wishes fulfilled. He is known to have been concerned that a fifth terrestrial channel, as originally envisaged by the Government, might not be available in large areas of the south of England, which has a concentration of Conservative voters.

Mr Michael Checkland, director general of the BBC, said last night: "We will of course examine whether there is any benefit in offering BBC2 experimentally on satellite in addition to the present transmission, particularly if it can eventually offer higher quality pictures and sound."

"However viewers will have to be assured that the service of BBC2 which they presently fund and which they currently enjoy continues to be available at no extra cost."

Lord Thomson of Monifieth, chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, said: "The Government has put forward radical and novel ideas. The IBA will give them careful study and offer the Government its considered views over the next few weeks."

Rees-Mogg made peer in Honours

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Sir William Rees-Mogg, chairman of the new Broadcasting Standards Council and a former editor of *The Times*, is one of four new life peers in the Birthday Honours list published today.

The others are leading lawyer Mr Robert Alexander, QC, chairman of the City panel on take-overs and mergers, Professor Sir John Butterfield, former Regius professor of physics at Cambridge University and Lord Alexander Mackenzie Stuart, president of the European Court of Justice, whose present honorary title deriving from a Scottish law office does not entitle him to sit in the House of Lords.

The list of 679 names also includes knightships for Mr Cyril Smith, the MP for Rochdale, who is to retire at the next election, and Mr

Honours list...4, 5

Nicholas Fairbairn, MP for Perth and Kinross and former Scottish law officer.

Also knighted are four other Conservative MPs — Mr Hal Miller (Bromsgrove), Mr Dennis Walters (Westbury), Mr Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury) and Mr John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge).

Mr Peter Morrison, Minister of State for Energy and

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WIN £70,000

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

● The £4,000 daily prize was claimed yesterday (see page 3). There is £8,000 to be won today, plus £70,000 in the Portfolio Accumulator Fund. See pages 29, 34

INSIDE

● Dublin is now celebrating 1,000 years of a history littered with fancy and romance.
● Patrick O'Hanlon and John Higgins joined the celebrations to try to unpick a few facts. See page 13

IN PART 2

Rolls pacts

Rolls-Royce has signed preliminary agreements with two aircraft makers which may boost sales of new RB211 engines for the next generation of big jets. Page 27

Opec threat

Dr Rihwanu Lukman, the Nigerian Oil Minister, may resign as president of Opec unless a clash over output quotas is resolved. Page 27

Lineker doubt

Gary Lineker, England's leading scorer, is doubtful for tomorrow's European championship match against the Republic of Ireland. Page 40

Golfers lead

Great Britain and Ireland led by six points to three after the first day of the Curtis Cup women's golf contest against the United States. Page 41

Rules for Gib

Gibraltar's Government is drawing up rules to protect investors against dubious share-pushers based there. Family Money, pages 30-35

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Emburey to lead England

Mike Gatting, sacked as England captain by the Test and County Cricket Board, was yesterday replaced by his vice-captain, John Emburey, for the second Test match against West Indies.

Emburey has been appointed on a one match trial basis following the dismissal of Gatting on Thursday for "irresponsible behaviour" in allowing himself to be placed in a compromising situation with a barmaid at his hotel last weekend during the first Test.

Tougher codes of conduct for England players are to be drawn up by the TCCB, Alan Smith, the chief executive of the TCCB warned: "Events have shown that previous warnings about behaviour have not been wholly absorbed."

Four other England players were exonerated over suggestions of similar misconduct. Report, page 42

Armenian unrest 'out of control'

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, the catalyst for some of the worst nationalist unrest seen in recent Soviet history, has been paralysed by a new wave of strikes for the past three weeks. Its food supplies are running short and ethnic violence is continuing.

Pravda reported yesterday that Armenians were holding daily protest marches through Stepanakert, the capital, while shops, factories and restaurants remained shut and public transport was at a standstill.

The mountainous area, which has a majority Armenian population, remains barred to foreign newsmen, and observers had been led to believe that the recent absence of news meant that relative normality had returned. The graphic *Pravda* account made clear that this was far from the case and also admitted for the first time that the ruling

Communist Party had lost control.

"The Communist Party is unable to stop the trouble in Stepanakert," *Pravda* reported in the most frank account of the situation yet to appear in the official media. "The party organizations are not masters of the situation. Appeals to go back to work found no response."

The mainly Christian Armenian majority in the region is demanding that it be returned to Armenian jurisdiction, a call which has been backed by the residents of Armenia itself since trouble broke out in February, but which has been turned down by the Kremlin.

Pravda made clear that, despite Moscow's rebuff, the Armenians in the disputed region were not giving up. "Every morning tens of thousands of people are marching along the streets (of Stepanakert)." Continued on page 24, col 5

BBC fuels row on Mandela concert

By Sheila Gunn and Andrew McEwen

The BBC fuelled the row last night over its decision to broadcast today's 10-hour Mandela concert at Wembley Stadium by refusing to give a firm commitment not to relay any anti-apartheid messages during the live transmission.

A group of Conservative MPs warned that there will be "a hell of a row" if a message from Nelson Mandela, who is incarcerated in Pollsmoor prison, or other anti-apartheid propaganda is relayed.

Such transmission will also increase the tension between the Government and the BBC and is likely to spark off a further backlash against the corporation by the South African Government.

Relations between the BBC and Pretoria have already plummeted after the broadcast on Wednesday of the documentary *Suffer the Children*.

Mr Stoffel Botha, the South African Home Affairs Min-

ister, who is in charge of foreign press credentials, has ordered a report on whether the BBC should be banned. This followed hints on Thursday by Mr Adrian Volk, the Law and Order Minister, that the BBC's representatives might be ordered out because

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of the documentary, which was made inside South Africa without government permission.

In London Mr Rae Killen, the South African Ambassador, wrote to Sir Patrick Wright, permanent under-secretary at the Foreign Office, objecting to the plans to screen the concert. But Whitehall sources said he did not ask the British Government to take action, and the Foreign Office view was that it was a matter for the BBC.

Continued on page 24, col 2

150 Wimbledon umpires 'in ticket cash deals'

By Howard Foster and John Goodbody

Up to 150 tennis umpires due to officiate at this year's Wimbledon fortnight have broken All England Tennis Club rules by selling their allocation of privileged tickets for a vast profit, it was claimed yesterday.

British and foreign umpires who can make several thousand pounds from the sale of well-positioned seats on the three main Wimbledon courts strike deals with ticket agencies and corporate hospitality firms, according to Mr Mike Burton, a businessman.

More than 300 umpires take part in the Wimbledon tournament. Those called upon to work for the entire fortnight receive six pairs of Centre Court tickets. An unprecedented demand this year has pushed the price of



BRITISH TENNIS UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

So please do not allow yourself to be tempted to make a profit on your tickets. Wimbledon umpires have been instructed this year for everybody there should be no need for you to supplement them with ill-gotten gains.

a pair of good seats for the Men's Final well beyond £1,200.

Six Wimbledon umpires were caught selling their tickets on the black market last year. One was expelled from the British Tennis Umpires' Association and the others lost ticket privileges.

"It is a conservative estimate to say that there are 150 because some of them band together," Mr Burton, aged 42, said. His MBM company is to entertain about 2,000 business clients at Wimbledon.

"One umpire has been supplying me with tickets for ten 10 years. He always asks for cash. Others are paid either by cash or with cheques. I will take the names of those umpires with me to the grave because they are very valuable people and I will always protect them," he said.

Mr Burton said that he visited tennis championships leading up to Wimbledon fortnight to arrange his deals.

Mr Burton's assertion that umpires are still selling tickets against the rules

of their association and the All England Club was supported by a large ticket agency in the West End of London. "It is like an unofficial wage for an umpire," the Dial-a-Ticket agency in the Strand said.

Recent reports have indicated that umpires are willing to risk expulsion from the umpires' association to make up to £6,000 from the sale of tickets with an original face value of between £9 and £25.

● On Monday *The Times* begins a two-part examination of Wimbledon fortnight. It examines the new pressures that are sending ticket prices higher than ever and highlights the emergence of a new industry that wants to change the way that Britain's most prestigious sporting event is run.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

BBC wins three awards in Canada

Three BBC television programmes have won awards at the Banff television festival in Canada, bringing the BBC's total so far this year to 126. Two BBC2 television dramas, "Sweet As You Are" and "Shadow on the Earth", and the BBC Scotland Music in Camera programme, "Facade", which was produced with BBC Bristol, won three of the 10 "best in category" awards at Banff Springs Hotel last night. The programmes were selected from more than 400 entries from around the world. "Sweet As You Are", which won the drama special section, was shown in January in the Screen Two season of BBC television films and was watched by seven million people, one of the largest audiences recorded for a single drama on BBC2. "Shadow on the Earth", which won in the television features section, was shown in the Screen Two season in March. "Facade" celebrated the centenary of Edith Sitwell's birth when it was shown on BBC2 in November 1987.

Pardoned man jailed

A man, who was awarded record compensation after serving eight years in prison for a murder he was later cleared of committing, was jailed for 18 months at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday. John Preece, aged 56, was convicted of indecently assaulting a boy, aged 12, after a two-day trial. Preece received £77,000 compensation from the Home Office in 1981 shortly after three Scottish appeal court quashed his conviction in 1973 for the murder of an Aberdeen woman.

Girobank warning

Prospective purchasers of Girobank, which is to be privatized by the end of the year at an estimated price of £200 million were told yesterday that the unions would "use any weapon at our disposal" to protect the future of its 6,000 employees. Delegates to the National Communications Union conference unanimously backed an emergency resolution instructing the executive to prepare for united action if the new owners made any attempt to shed jobs.

Judge orders arrest

A Central Criminal Court judge yesterday ordered the arrest of a shop assistant aged 17 after members of a jury complained of being abused and threatened. Judge James Rant, QC, issued a warrant for the arrest of Miss Veron Richards, from Thornton Heath, south London, and said: "I am satisfied that there is a prima facie case of contempt of court". Meanwhile, police and court officials were investigating complaints that two members of another jury may have been secretly photographed.

Aerial conviction

The first motorist to be convicted after being caught speeding by a police spotter plane was banned from driving for 28 days yesterday. Mr David Wickham, aged 36, a sales manager, was recorded as travelling at 108.5 miles an hour on the M42 by the crew of a West Mercia police aircraft. The crew radioed ahead and he was stopped by a patrol car. Mr Wickham, of Landsdowne Road, Codsall, near Wolverhampton, was also fined £100 by Droitwich magistrates after admitting speeding.

Guernsey job licenses

Employers in Guernsey may have to seek licences before taking on new staff. Licences for the self-employed are also proposed in more stringent population monitoring and control measures to be debated by the Guernsey parliament. It is estimated that Guernsey's population, now 58,500 has been increasing by 2.25 per cent annually.

1,900 dockyard redundancies

Ministry accused of 'duplicity' over Devonport job cuts

By Tim Jones

As politicians and union leaders yesterday accused the Government of "lies and duplicity" after the announcement that an additional 1,900 jobs are to go at Devonport Dockyard, the Ministry of Defence said there was no change in the determination to maintain a strong navy.

The Ministry said after the announcement, by Devonport Management Ltd, who took over the management of Devonport Royal Dockyard last year, that the job losses stemmed from previous over-manning under its management.

The redundancies announced yesterday include 1,000 jobs which had already been scheduled to go this year and an extra 400 which were to have been staggered over the next two years. The new round of cuts will reduce the workforce to about 6,000 by 1990.

Defending the redundancies the ministry said it was "in the interests of the Royal Navy, the taxpayer and the long-term future of the dockyard itself" that manning should be reduced.

It said because modern gas turbine ships are more reliable and need less maintenance than older ships, "upkeep cycles" had been adjusted accordingly. Seven years ago surface warships spent on average nearly 20 per cent of their time in refit, but the figure last year was 12 per cent.

"The rundown of

Devonport does not indicate any change of the Government's determination to maintain a strong navy, including a surface fleet of three carriers and about fifty destroyers and frigates, together with amphibious and support elements."

The announcement sparked off a furious reaction from trade unions who accused the ministry of deliberately lying to Parliament, the High Court and the public about the true number of redundancies in the run-up to privatization last year.

Mr Jack Dromey, the Transport and General Workers' Union's national secretary, speaking for 11 industrial and non-industrial unions at the yard, said he was in possession of a secret internal MOD document in which the ministry "admits that the truth was not told".

He challenged Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, to publish the report "which admits that the information on the true redundancy figures was withheld before privatization and the general election".

He added: "The Secretary of State for Defence knew damn well the consequences of his actions but was economical with the truth. Neither can he now do a Pontius Pilate, because Government policy is directly responsible for the disaster facing Devonport."

According to Mr Dromey, 5,000 jobs at the yard are at risk, a figure categorically

denied by the MoD, which said only 2,300 would go in addition to the 1,000 already announced.

At Devonport, Mr Bill Giffin, an engineering union official urged the workforce to "dig in" to stop the flow of job losses. The unions have pledged to fight compulsory redundancies, but yesterday Mr Mike Leese, the company's managing director admitted there would be some.

He said: "We very much regret the need for further job losses but it is our firm conviction that by making this difficult decision, it can make us more competitive so we can win MoD and commercial work and arrive at a stable level of employment more quickly."

Mr David Owen, the SDP leader and MP for Devonport, said: "This is one more sign of the total duplicity that has been adopted by the Government over the dockyards. The House of Commons has been systematically misled. At no stage did the Government ever come clean with the fact that commercial management would mean halving the dockyard workforce."

The MoD said it would fund the cost of redundancies among its former employees at Civil Service rates where they arose from efficiency improvements and changes in the core programme. In addition, the ministry has released, or offered for release, a areas of land in and around Plymouth for redevelopment.

Swordstick return



Eric Butler and his wife Ann yesterday after his 28-day suspended prison sentence imposed for carrying a swordstick on the London Underground was quashed by the Court of Appeal.

The swordstick with its two-foot blade which he used to stab one of his attackers was returned to him. But Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, who said Butler had "quite properly" used the stick in self defence, upheld his conviction for carrying an offensive weapon and increased his fine from £200 to £300.

Lord Lane said he considered the circumstances of the case to be extraordinary.

Outside court Butler, aged 57, of Forest Glade, Waltham Forest, east London, said: "I'm disappointed the conviction was not quashed".

James Iddenden, aged 38, jailed for two and a half years for firing a shotgun and wounding a thief who was stealing antique tiles from the Hampshire cottage he was hoping to buy, had his sentence cut to 12 months by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Family may lose £90,000 Clowes investment

By Rosemary Unsworth
Retail Affairs Correspondent

A retired Inner London Education Authority inspector and his family stand to lose £90,000 which they invested in Barlow Clowes International through a Surrey-based retirement advisory service.

Mr Geoffrey Hodson, who took early retirement from Ilea three years ago on health grounds, used his retirement lump sum, savings and shares, amounting to £45,000 belong-

ing to him and his wife Rachel, to invest in the gilts management group which is being wound up in London and Gibraltar.

His decision was based on advice from Investment and Pensions Advisory Service of Weybridge, Surrey, which regularly advertised in *London Town*, a GLC magazine. He later encouraged his mother, Mrs May Hodson, aged 91, to invest around £45,000 of her savings in Barlow Clowes through IPAS when she

moved into a retirement home.

"We had five separate investments through IPAS, which sounded perfectly respectable. I'm sure many of my Ilea and other GLC colleagues also took their advice."

Yesterday Mr David Gray, director of IPAS, which has been besieged with telephone calls from investors inquiring about their investments, refused to comment on how much his company was involved with Barlow Clowes. He said: "I have no comment

to make about the situation with the Barlow Clowes companies."

"The matter is in the hands of my solicitor and I am doing my best to try and sort things out."

The *Times* revealed yesterday that warnings about Barlow Clowes were given to the Department of Trade and Industry by Nasdim, the City watchdog, four years ago.

It said BCI had not received a securities licence or membership of Nasdim.

Radical reforms in NHS backed

By Jill Sherman
Social Services
Correspondent

Health authorities should be financially penalized if they fail to provide efficient services, health service finance managers said yesterday.

Mr David Poynton, chairman of the Healthcare Financial Management Association, said the Government should introduce penalties similar to those imposed on local authorities which overspend.

The association urged the Prime Minister to proceed with radical reforms in the NHS, including full implementation of an internal market whereby hospitals would trade with each other.

The reforms would, however, have to be backed up by additional resources so efficient authorities would have an incentive to take on more work and improve services.

Mr Poynton said: "The alternative to radical changes is to stay where we are, which is unacceptable to everyone."

The former director of finance for the West Midlands regional health authority said the Government should set fixed rates for certain operations, or diagnostic related groups. Health authorities which exceeded this rate would get a reduced allocation for the next year, while those which underspent would be able to use the savings to expand services.

It would be up to authorities to buy the best care for their residents from local hospitals, the private sector or other health authorities. There would be an agreed set of services hospitals would provide.

Some inefficient hospitals or services might go out of business. That would be monitored by health authorities who could underwrite services, such as accident and emergency departments, if they had to be maintained for geographical reasons.

Surveys The Times overseas
Austria Sch 29; Belgium B Fr 90;
Canada Cdn 75; Channel Fr 200;
Cyprus Cyp 80; Denmark Dkr 12 00;
Finland Mk 9 00; France F 9 00; W
Germany DM 3 50; Gibraltar Gbp 70c;
Greece Dr 300; Holland Gld 3 50; Irish
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Moore cutting

Couple

Thyssen ex

Baby for liver swap woman

Woman Mumro showing off her son, Kelsey.

Moore 'acted illegally' in cutting pensioners' benefit

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The Government faced further embarrassment over its social security reforms and a possible bill of £80 million after a tribunal ruling yesterday in favour of four pensioners from Birkenhead.

A social security appeals tribunal ruled that Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services, acted beyond his powers when he cut housing benefit supplement for the four people on April 3.

The ruling could apply to 400,000 claimants who also lost £12 weekly supplements one week before the Government's social security reforms came in to effect on April 11.

Mr Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, said that the Government should now pay out for the poor with the generosity that it had shown to the rich.

"This is another significant success which shows the extent to which the skids are under the Government's welfare policy," he said. "More importantly it shows that cuts in benefit since April are unlawful."

Mr Nicholas Warren, the Birkenhead solicitor who also overturned government regulations on board and lodg-

ing, argued that the Government was not entitled to alter the rules on housing benefit supplements without a vote of both Houses of Parliament.

The Government had assumed that the benefit was covered by housing benefit legislation, when in fact it was part of supplementary benefit which was replaced by income support in April.

"The Secretary of State has misunderstood housing benefit supplement and as a direct result of that mistake has misunderstood what powers he has to interfere with it," Mr Warren told the tribunal.

Yesterday's decision means that 400,000 claimants should have received benefit payments in the week of April 4-11. Because of that they will qualify for continuing cash protection as do other supplementary benefit claimants under the new system.

However the Department of Health and Social Security is likely to appeal against the ruling to a social security commissioner.

"The decision is to be greatly welcomed," the charity Help the Aged said yesterday. "This represents a clawback to a situation which is more fair

and egalitarian."

He added: "The whole reorganization of housing benefit has been bad news for the elderly population."

The three-man tribunal took 20 minutes to decide that the Government had acted beyond its powers.

Before retiring to consider the case, Mr Reginald Atkins, the tribunal chairman, said he expected that which ever side lost would appeal.

"All we are doing is blowing the whistle for the beginning of extra time," he said. "It isn't the end of the game."

Mr Geoffrey Healing, the DHSS representative, said: "We will await the panel's decision in writing in a week or two. It is possible then that an appeal will be considered but that will not be my decision."

The four pensioners involved are Mrs Dora Wolf, Mrs Sarah Broadfield, Mr William McLoughlin and Mr John Percival.

Mrs Wolf, aged 68, a widow, from Talbot Court, Oxted, said when she was first affected by the benefit change that she could only hope that she would die before her savings ran out.

She said yesterday: "I am very pleased, but we have got a long way to go yet."

Mr Warren, who also successfully fought the case of a Birkenhead man to have the Government's "board and lodgings" regulations overturned, said: "The tribunal has ruled that the regulation taking away housing benefit supplement was not permitted by law."

"What happens now depends on the Secretary of State and the DHSS. If they accept the tribunal ruling then lots of pensioners will be protected against the recent cuts in their income."

Mr Robin Cook, Labour's social services spokesman, said the successful appeal confirmed what Labour had been saying for the past year.

"Government changes in social security were not properly thought through. It shows what happens when you take policy decisions in private without consulting those in the know. You end up with egg on your face," he said.

"The decision could mean an extra £10 a week for almost half a million claimants. That's a big help for people on £50 or £60 a week."

A match for Princess



The Princess of Wales enjoyed mixed fortunes yesterday after joining the tennis star Steffi Graf for a few sets of doubles at the Vanderbilt Club in Shepherd's Bush, west London.

The Princess and her frequent tennis partner Mr Charles Swallow, a director of the club, were first beaten by the champion and her partner Lord Willsborough de Broke 3-6.

The women then joined forces to beat their partners 6-5 after a tie-break.

After the matches, Miss Graf and Mr Swallow both praised the Princess's ability on court. Miss Graf was quoted as saying: "We had a lot of fun. She told me that she usually only plays once a week and had only been playing for a year, so I think she plays quite well. She has a good serve and forehand."

Mr Swallow said: "She played some very good shots. There was one memorable one when she hit the ball down the sideline, and Steffi couldn't get to it."

The Princess was at the club to open the European Office of the Women's International Tennis Association, but the ceremony was delayed for 20 minutes by the late arrival of Miss Graf who got lost on her way from Wimbledon and was delayed by traffic.

After the brief ceremony, Miss Graf, aged 18, presented the Princess with the racket she had used to beat Natalia Zvereva in the French Open final last week.

The Princess discussed the difficulties of dealing with London traffic with Miss Graf.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Bonus for home and overseas

Foreign travel and a new washing machine will both be paid for by yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio competition which was won outright by Mr Peter Horrocks, from East Preston, West Sussex.

"I will now be able to take my wife on that trip to Florence that I've been promising her for a number of years," Mr Horrocks, a retired Bank of England employee, said.

He added: "It also comes at a particularly opportune time - we have just had to replace our washing machine."

Italian murder detectives to visit London

By Roger Boyes

Italian detectives investigating the murder of two restaurateurs and their wives near Rimini are to visit London next week to make inquiries at Italian restaurants in Soho and Chelsea.

After months of investigation, no obvious motive has emerged for the murders of two retired London restaurateurs - Signor Luigi Pagliarini and Signor Sergio Galassi - and their wives. The two couples had retired to Italy from their profitable restaurant businesses in London.

Dr Roberto Sapio, the chief investigating magistrate, is convinced that the motive must be in London.

Mills back

Courts said yesterday that normal working had resumed at its textile mills after a substantial majority of its workers had voted to accept a pay offer of 7 per cent, including 1.5 per cent in anticipation of planned cost saving productivity improvements. Present minimum earnings levels will be increased by £10 to £28.60.

Baby charges

Della McCall, aged 44, of Garswood, Merseyside, was yesterday committed for trial on three charges of abducting Natalie Horrell, aged five months, at Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan, in May. Mrs McCall was remanded in custody by Cardiff magistrates.

Harrods sues

Harrods said yesterday that it would sue the Daily Mirror over allegations about girls working on its perfume counters. The store said it had conducted an internal investigation and issued legal proceedings. The Mirror said: "We stand by our story."

Poet choked

The Irish poet, John Jordan, choked to death on a ham roll while attending a conference at the Park Hotel, Cardiff, earlier this month, a Cardiff inquest was told yesterday. A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

No proof of how 'Lucky' Diamond died

Couple on murder charges set free

A man and a woman accused of stabbing a wealthy oil man to death during an orgy of sex and drinking, walked free from court yesterday when murder charges against them were dropped.

Anthony "Lucky" Diamond, aged 52, an Australian businessman, was found dead in the bloodstained kitchen of his home at Cromer, Norfolk, coast last July.

Mr Donald Baker, aged 56, the licensee of the local Poachers Pocket public house, and Miss Kathleen McCarthy, aged 20, who worked there as a waitress, have been on bail ever since, facing charges of murder, robbery with violence and theft, which they denied.

Yesterday at Norwich Crown Court, not guilty verdicts on charges of murder and robbery were recorded against Mr Baker of Coast Road, Bacton, and Miss McCarthy, of Woodfield Gardens, New Malden, Surrey, after the prosecution said it could not prove how Mr Diamond met his death.

Mr Anthony Hooper, for the prosecution, told the court that Mr Diamond and Mr



Miss McCarthy yesterday, after being found not guilty.

Baker spent the afternoon drinking Scotch at Mr Diamond's home before Miss McCarthy arrived. Amid a confused background of heavy drinking and wild sexual activity, Mr Diamond met his death, Mr Hooper said.

At one stage Miss McCarthy had the top half of her clothing removed and Mr Diamond undressed and went to his bedroom, the court was told.

While he was there, Mr Baker and Miss McCarthy searched his home and found more than £1,500 in £50 notes

in a briefcase in the kitchen but were disturbed by Mr Diamond.

Police scientists later pieced together a picture of the scuffle that broke out between them, during which Mr Diamond was stabbed with a kitchen knife.

Mr Hooper said: "There was an enormous amount of blood everywhere. McCarthy suffered bruises and cuts on her hands, feet and upper body while Baker cut both hands badly and had to be taken to hospital."

Neighbours saw Mr Baker and Miss McCarthy stagger out to a car in the drive and drive off, with Mr Baker crashing into one of the gate posts on the way.

They drove to the Poachers Pocket where Miss McCarthy behaved in what Mr Hooper described as a bizarre manner.

He said: "She began dancing in the discotheque of the public house, still caked with blood, half naked, in a totally dishevelled and shocked condition. Friends tried to persuade her to leave but she continued dancing in a wild abandoned manner."

"Baker was rushed to hospital where he was later arrested, while police arrested McCarthy at the public house where they found the cash hidden on the premises."

Mr Hooper said: "The prosecution have no evidence that Baker actually stabbed Diamond, neither is there any evidence that it was planned or premeditated. Neither has the prosecution any evidence that McCarthy deliberately stabbed Diamond intending to commit murder."

The prosecution was unable to prove in what circumstances the two defendants received their injuries or say exactly what took place at the house that night.

Mr Justice Garland also directed that further charges of theft against both defendants be dropped after an application from Mr Anthony Arledge, QC, for Miss McCarthy and Mr David Penny-Davey, QC, for Mr Baker.

Mrs Maria Diamond, aged 42, the dead man's widow, said yesterday: "I am totally distressed. The only certain thing is that my husband was killed here a year ago."

Thyssen exhibition sets a record

By Andrew Billen

The Royal Academy exhibition of Old Master paintings from the Thyssen-Bornemisza collection, jointly presented with The Times, has broken all attendance records for a show of its size.

The exhibition closes tomorrow. Since opening in March it has been visited by 181,600 people - an average of 2,112 a day.

The attendance makes it the

twelfth most popular exhibition at the Royal Academy for 25 years. The 11 seen by greater numbers were, unlike Thyssen, all main hall exhibitions.

The attendance compares with 147,000 visitors to the 1986 Picasso exhibition, 164,000 to the German Art exhibition in 1985, and 146,000 for an exhibition drawn from the Baron Thy-

sen-Bornemisza's modern collection in 1984.

The Royal Academy shop, which sold 137,000 Thyssen postcards, has compiled a list of top sellers. The most popular was Michael Sweeter's "The Sense of Smell" (10,300), followed by Rubens's "Portrait of a Lady with a Rosary" (8,000) and Petrus Christus's "The Madonna of the Dry Tree" (7,300).

Baker urged to veto £100 exam appeal deposit

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Labour yesterday urged Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education, to veto a move by examiners to make a deposit of £100 a subject for the right to make full use of the GCSE appeals procedures.

The joint council of the examining boards fears a record number of appeals because of the unfamiliarity of the new examination and says

it has introduced the deposit to deter frivolous complaints. Up to 60,000 results at 16-plus are questioned by parents or head teachers each year.

The £100 applies only to an approach to the council as the court of last resort and will be returned if an appeal is upheld. Clerical checks and remarks by the five examining boards will cost less, and in some cases nothing, depend-

ing on which board set the question.

The council has no powers to force a board to change a pupil's grade but only to "look again" at the marks.

Mr Jack Straw, Labour's chief education spokesman, said: "Kenneth Baker must veto this plan immediately. It will penalize any pupil from less well-off homes."

"The boards just have to

accept that in the first year there will be more appeals than usual and that the future credibility of GCSE partly depends on a fair appeals system in the early years."

The Department of Education and Science yesterday denied that ministers had been caught unaware by the announcement. Mr Baker is unlikely to ask the council to reconsider its move.

PLO arms cache

Palestinian was 'working for Israel'

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Israeli diplomats have confirmed that a Palestinian on trial for possessing Palestinian Liberation Organization arms and explosives passed terrorist information to Israeli officials, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

The Israeli links were disclosed by the Crown yesterday as Ismael Hassan Sowan, the Palestinian, told the court how he was recruited by Mossad, the Israeli secret service, and given money to live in Paris and London so he could spy. Details of the information provided by the Israeli embassy for police were given yesterday on the fourth day of Mr Sowan's trial.

Mr Sowan, aged 29, a research assistant who was born in Jerusalem, has pleaded not guilty to possessing arms and explosives found in suitcases at his home in Hull last year.

The cache is alleged to have been left

by a man called Abder Rahman Mustapha, who was linked by police to the murder last summer in Chelsea of Mr Ali al-Adhami, a newspaper cartoonist.

Mr Mustapha is said to have been a member of a PLO group, Force 17, guarding the organization's leader, Mr Yasser Arafat.

Mr Sowan's connection with the Israelis was disclosed in agreed admissions yesterday made by Mr John Nutting, for the prosecution, before the start of the defence case.

Mr Nutting told the court: "Police have made inquiries at the Israeli embassy in London. The embassy have said that on occasions the defendant has been in contact with the Israeli authorities."

Last year, while in Israel, the embassy said that Mr Sowan had told the authorities in Bethlehem that he was

looking after suitcases containing electronic equipment for Mr Mustapha.

Mr David Cocks QC, for the defence, told the jury that one of the striking features of the case was the fact that although his client was working for the Israelis, it was normally impossible to get such evidence before the courts. People like Mr Sowan would normally be left in the cold, Mr Cocks said.

Mr Sowan had tried to steer his way through a maze of conflicting loyalties and ended up mixing with PLO members and also working for Mossad.

Mr Sowan said the Israelis paid for a flat in north London, for a course he took, and gave him £400 a month. When he moved to Bath, the Israelis gave him £500 a month to cover trips to London where he struck up an acquaintance with Mr Mustapha.

The case continues on Monday.

Satellite broadcasting

Rivals deny space loss risk

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

Reports that the satellite television networks planned for launch next year could be put out of action by technological difficulties were denied by both SES, which is launching the Astra satellite on which Mr Rupert Murdoch's Sky Television service will be carried, and British Satellite Broadcasting, which plans a rival service later in 1989.

At a European satellite broadcasting conference in London yesterday, both organizations faced tough questioning about how they would get their networks up and running.

Some industry experts are worried about the implications of the destruction of the satellites used by either of the services.

Astra is due for launch in November on the new Ariane 4 European booster, while BSB's satellite is being

launched by the American Delta rocket in the new year. Both Ariane and Delta have proved very reliable boosters in the past. Even so, both organizations believed they would be able to deal with the loss of their first satellites if necessary.

Mr Robin Crossley, manager of reception equipment for Luxembourg-based SES, said: "We are now in final negotiation for the construction of a second satellite."

Mr Graham Grist, operations and finance director of BSB, said that his company had booked the launch of a second satellite in August 1990.

Fears that a West German telecommunications satellite, DFS Copernicus, due for launch in 1991, will be stationed so close to Astra that TV reception by small dishes will be affected were also

dismissed by Mr Crossley.

He said that the satellites would be separated by over four degrees in space, and that a 60cm dish of the kind to be marketed by Amstrad would be sufficient to produce suitable standard pictures. "The argument is fallacious," he said.

Lord Weinstock, chairman of the GEC group of companies, agreed yesterday to supply the crucial electronic components for the roof top dish aerials that will receive the four 24-hour television channels to be broadcast directly by the Astra satellite next year by Mr Rupert Murdoch's Sky television company.

The agreement was reached between Lord Weinstock and Mr Alan Sugar, of Amstrad, who aims to sell a million dish units at £199 each to receive Sky channels.



Mrs Yvonne Munro showing off her son, Kelsey.

Baby for liver swap woman

Mrs Yvonne Munro, aged 38, has become Britain's first liver transplant patient to have a baby.

Mrs Munro, of Coley Grove, Little Hayworth, Staffordshire, who had a transplant operation three years ago, gave birth to a boy, Kelsey, weighing 4lb 3½oz.

The child is the first for Mrs Munro and her husband Roy, aged 38, and she has another son, Hytton, aged 19, from her first marriage.

She said: "I can't believe it. I knew I was seriously ill and I would have died in just a few weeks without the operation. Now I have had the second baby I always wanted."

The child was born at Birmingham Maternity Hospital, not far from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital where the transplant took place in 1985.

Mr John Backels, the transplant consultant who looked after Mrs Munro, said: "We

Rates hope for horse owners

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Government has not yet closed the door on the possibility of further rates exemption or concessions for horse owners and breeders.

The industry appeared to be in some confusion yesterday after the Government had rejected an amendment in the Lords on Thursday, during a debate on the Local Government Finance Bill, which would have extended the definition of agricultural buildings - which are not rated - to cover those used for breeding and rearing horses.

At the same time it was announced that buildings for small-scale, non-commercial breeding of horses and ponies would be exempted from paying rates from 1990.

Mr Sam Sheppard, Secretary of the Horse and Pony Breeders' Taxation Com-

mittee, said last night that out of about 6,500 breeders in Britain, about 4,500 owned only one mare and another 1,000 only two. They were mainly people who bred and kept horses for their own use, and would presumably benefit from the new exemption.

That left about 1,000 commercial breeders who, since a lands tribunal ruling in 1981, had been placed at a disadvantage with their counterparts overseas.

The committee was still hoping that the Government would allow a return to the situation that existed between 1933 and 1981, when buildings used for breeding and rearing horses and ponies were placed in the same category as those used for agricultural livestock.

Major Christopher Philipson, managing director of the British Bloodstock Agency, said that an establishment that kept, say, three stallions, might have to provide stabling for up to 120 mares, and the rates could be a crippling financial burden.

"The Government's attitude is incomprehensible when it is trying to persuade farmers to diversify into new enterprises," he said.

The British Horse Society said its aim was to have a rating extended to all parts of the equestrian industry.

On Thursday, Mr John Gummer, Minister of State for Agriculture, said: "A horse is an agricultural animal when it is an agricultural animal, but when it is running in the Derby it is obviously not an agricultural animal. We are going to keep it like that."

£20,000 will fail to save dog that pined

For 10 days a Yorkshire terrier called Benji lived in luxury after inheriting £20,000 from his owner, Mrs Diana Benfield of Nottingham.

But Benji pined for his mistress and was destroyed after being staff at the kennels that were his new home.

Mrs Benfield's executors, the Midland Bank, said yesterday: "The dog just did not like strangers. When Mrs Benfield was alive, he bit the nurses who were looking after her. The kennels were in no way responsible. We simply could not find a suitable home for the dog in view of his behaviour."

Benji's inheritance will be shared among three animal charities to which Mrs Benfield bequeathed the rest of her estate.

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Ordination of women

Test for Synod as bishops fail to resolve differences

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Editor

The campaign for women priests in the Church of England will face its most critical test next month when the General Synod debates the underlying theological issues and considers legislation.

More than a third of the synod's standing committee voted last week against presenting such legislation to the synod, in view of the controversial nature of some details.

A key issue was the level of compensation for clergy who wish to resign their orders because they cannot accept women priests. The supporters of women's ordination are divided on that point, and some may even vote with their opponents.

The proposed compensation terms are to be published next week. It is already clear that the synod's reaction to them will be heavily influenced by its response to a theological report from the House of Bishops, published yesterday. The report was

commissioned to try to resolve differences between them, but it underlines the extent of their disagreement.

The report was prepared by a small group of bishops, headed by the Bishop of Newcastle, the Right Rev Alec Graham. It was known to include the leading opponent of women's ordination, the Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard.

The other names have not been disclosed, on the ground that the report has now been accepted by the House of Bishops as a whole.

The group was described yesterday as unanimous, although on the principal theological issues it records only an "agreement to disagree". The Bishop of Newcastle said it represented "guidance" to the church on what were the real issues.

The bishops said that as a priest represents Christ, who was a man, ought only men to be ordained, or does a priest represent Christ's humanity?

They also question whether the New Testament opposition to women having "headship" over men excluded them from positions of authority in the church, or whether that was overtaken by the biblical references of the fundamental equality of men and women.

Would the Church of England jeopardize church unity by ordaining women, they ask, or would the ordination of women enhance the church's unity at a deeper level?

May the Church of England act before the emergence of an ecumenical consensus, including other churches, or should it act as it thinks right?

The report also asks how the traditional "Anglican" sources of authority, scripture, tradition and reason should be used to answer such questions.

The report describes the various views on these questions which exist among the bishops, without giving names or numbers. The weight of opinion appears to be in

favour of proceeding now, as is borne out by the voting record of the bishops in previous debates.

The bishops conclude by stating that the consecration of a woman bishop in the Anglican Communion overseas "would certainly be regarded by many as a break in communion" which it describes as "a very grave matter".

The issue of women bishops is likely to be one of the most controversial subjects discussed at the Lambeth Conference later in July.

The Bishop of Newcastle said there was underlying unity among the bishops in spite of their disagreements.

Dr Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury, said in an introduction to the report: "The differing judgements of members of the house on the ordination of women to the priesthood have been set in a framework of shared belief which must not be underestimated".

Leading article, page 11

Regional Trends

Private beds doubled in four years

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The number of private hospital beds in the country nearly doubled between 1982 and 1986 with the biggest expansions in the North and Midlands.

Figures contained in the Government's *Regional Trends 1988* confirm that private firms are trying to exploit areas traditionally reluctant to support private health care, such as Yorkshire, Merseyside and Trent-Private companies are beginning to realize that the provision of private hospital beds in London has reached saturation point.

While some small hospitals are being

set up in the M4 corridor, most firms are now going to the North or the Midlands for new developments.

The rapid expansion in private beds overall is partly explained, however, by the growth in private nursing homes in retirement areas such as the south coast, Devon and Cornwall.

The survey, published earlier this week, shows that between 1982 and 1986 the number of beds in private hospitals, nursing homes and clinics jumped from 34,786 to 62,112 in England alone.

The steepest increases were in York-

shire, from 2,165 to 5,055, Trent, 2,132 to 4,860, and Mersey, 1,868 to 3,799.

Both Wessex and South-Western regional health authorities, which cover popular retirement areas, showed increases of more than 100 per cent.

The survey also showed wide variations in the number of private patients in National Health Service hospitals.

North-West Thames had 5,917 in-patient discharges and deaths in 1986. This compared with 2,115 in the Northern region and 1,523 in the whole of Wales.

The caber comes south



Mr Peter Tancred, who claims to be Britain's strongest man, tossing the caber yesterday at the Laverliever Highland Games, held at Thomas Tallis School, Greenwich, south-east London, to raise funds for Laverliever Lodge, the rural pursuits centre in Argyll, Scotland, which children from Greenwich visit each year (Photograph: Nick Rogers).

Lady Luck smiles selectively on MPs

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Some MPs have more luck than others in the ballots for Prime Minister's Question Time.

Exasperated by his repeated failures in the ballot, Mr Robert Hayward, Conservative MP for Kingswood, has completed an analysis of those who have submitted more than five questions over a five-month period.

He has discovered that the Liberal Democrats secure high places in the ballot out of all proportion to their tiny number of MPs.

The luckiest MP of all is Mr Graham Allen, the new Labour MP for Nottingham North, who submitted six questions and whose average position in the ballot has been seventh. Any MP who secures one of the top half dozen places can expect to be called.

The least fortunate MP is Mr John Redwood, the new Conservative MP for Wokingham and former head of the Prime Minister's policy unit. His average position has been 111th.

Yesterday's Commons Order Paper carried the results for the ballot for Prime Minister's Questions on June 23.

The first question has been won by Mr Tam Dalyell, a persistent thorn in Mrs Thatcher's side, who came third in Mr Hayward's list of luckiest MPs. The fifth went to Mr Simon Hughes, SLD MP for Bermondsey, who was second in the list. The twelfth went to Mr Alex Carlile, SLD MP for Montgomery, who was listed ninth.

Questions are submitted to the Commons Table Office between 10am and 4pm on the day that falls two weeks before the relevant Question Time.

At 4pm the clerks carry them up to a committee room where they turn them all upside-down, shuffle them, and divide them into three equal piles. They then take one at random from each pile in turn until none remains.

As a final precaution to ensure fairness, they check that no MP has submitted more than one question before publishing the ballot results in the next day's Order Paper.

Mr Hayward, whose two researchers spent days on the analysis, accepts that the procedure is as fair as could be devised, and that it is meticulously followed by the clerks. But it confirms his belief that he consistently fares badly in the ballot. He is the fourteenth unluckiest MP, with an average position in the ballot of 87th.

The luckiest MPs are: 1 Mr Graham Allen (Lab, Nottingham North), average position, seventh; 2 Mr Simon Hughes (SLD, Bermondsey), 22; 3 Mr Tam Dalyell (Lab, Linlithgow), 24; 4 Mr Greville Janner (Lab, Leicester West), 27; 5 Mr Peter Thurnham (Con, Bolton NE) and Mr Tim Smith (Con, Beccles), 31.

The unluckiest are: 1 Mr John Redwood (Con, Wokingham), 111; 2 Mr Rhodri Morgan (Lab, Cardiff West), 108; 3 Mr David Forster (Lab, Waverley), 104; 4 Mr John Cummings (Lab, Easton), 99; 5 Mr Patrick McNair-Wilson (Con, New Forest), 97.

King's Cross inquiry

Union warning over barrier

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

A warning that new automatic ticket barriers on London Underground could lead to deaths in a fire emergency was given yesterday by Mr Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaysmen.

He also said there would have to be a radical change in thinking about safety if adequate standards were to be achieved throughout the system.

The system of automatic tickets is being installed and Mr Knapp, giving evidence to the inquiry into the King's Cross fire disaster, described them as "tall and narrow barriers".

He "could visualize a situation where if these had been at King's Cross, we would have had many more bodies laid against these barriers".

Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, who is conducting the inquiry, had seen the new type of gate, and said he was surprised by Mr Knapp's description of

their claustrophobic nature.

Mr Lionel Read, QC, for London Regional Transport and London Underground, said the new barriers would provide more capacity for people to leave than did existing barriers and they could all be centrally opened from a control room.

Mr Knapp questioned whether the system could be safe, given that London Underground was seeking a reduction of 1,500 staff as the new system was introduced.

He complained of a policy of setting "arbitrary" financial targets within which departments of London Underground had to operate. Such a policy was impossible to conceive without putting safety at risk, he said.

There was a situation in which they were considering not what was the best standard of service but what could be done to meet the arbitrary financial target. They should be looking at what were the

best safety standards and finding the resources to meet them.

The hearing continues on Monday.

London Underground yesterday launched an investigation after a Tube train was derailed inside a tunnel after pulling out of Piccadilly Circus station on the Bakerloo line, heading towards Oxford Circus.

A British Transport policeman who was on board radioed Scotland Yard for help and it put out a call for the emergency services.

The power was immediately turned off and it was discovered the middle three or four carriages of the train had come off the line. More than 100 passengers were led to safety.

Some passengers complained the train had been going faster than the 10 mph limit inside the tunnel.

London Underground said it was not immediately clear what caused the derailment.

The Times/Collins Dictionaries crossword championship

Former winner returns to the fray

By Robin Young

Authors, advertisers and postmen will be pitting their wits against housewives, lawyers and mask makers when the London regional finals of *The Times/Collins Dictionaries* crossword championship are played this weekend at the Park Lane Hotel in Mayfair.

The 506 participants have survived two eliminatory and qualifying rounds. Now they have to complete four crosswords of at least average

difficulty, without mistakes and in not more than 30 minutes for each puzzle.

The competitors include Sir David Hunt, the former ambassador and *Mastermind* winner, who has frequently won through to the national final, and the retired diplomat, Mr Roy Dean, who holds the record for completing a puzzle in 3.4 minutes.

Mr Dean was the first winner of the championships in 1970, won again in 1979

and came third last year.

Other entrants include a mask maker who collects fans, a retired paint sprayer who enjoys opera, a portrait painter, a man who knits, and a cabaret comedian.

The contestants' average age is 50, the oldest is 79 and the youngest, 21. Men outnumber women three to one. Their hobbies include wargames, bats, pub signs and collecting skulls.

The competitors may en-

counter some of the 1,500 new words recently added to Collins' Concise Dictionary, such as glasnost, gossypol or bonk, and newly recorded phrases like golden handcuffs, green wellic, and concert party.

The seven puzzlers with the fastest average times for completing all correct answers will meet the winners from the four regional finals, already completed, in the national final in London on Sunday, September 11.

Gummer attacks 'taxidermy' view on planning

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Mr John Gummer, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sounded a warning yesterday against "the Mrs Snells of this world, who want to turn the countryside into a museum".

Mrs Snell is an obnoxious newcomer to the long-running BBC Radio serial, *The Archers*, who is thought to typify a breed of late twentieth century rural settler which opposes any development that

might prove to be a threat to its pastoral idyll.

Mr Gummer described such people as belonging to "the taxidermy school of planning". He said: "Using the language of conservation, they condemn us to preservation."

"But where are the jobs and opportunities for working people? What future is there for the countrymen and countrywomen who fashion these villages and whose farming forebears created the countryside around?"

Mr Gummer, who was speaking at the annual conference in Hereford of the Central Association of Agricultural Valuers, said jobs in agriculture would continue to decline because of curbs on surplus production. Planning policies must give elbow room for rural enterprises to take their place.

If the countryside was not to be filled with old schoolhouses, old rectories and old forges, and deanded of village schools, parsons and enterprises, the "rural extremists" must be countered.

June 10 1988

PARLIAMENT

Campaign for breast feeding

The Government is to spend about £100,000 in the next two years on a new initiative to encourage breast feeding, Mrs Edwina Currie, Under Secretary of State for Health, said in opening a debate on women's health. The money will be spent through grant-aid to voluntary organizations.

In 1980, about two-thirds of mothers had breast-fed their babies, but the most recent survey showed that 85 per cent of those in social classes one and two were breast feeding, while only 45 per cent of those in social class five did so.

Breast feeding was better for the mother and for the baby.

Manufacturers of baby milk had agreed to phase out all free samples and view that a lot of problems with women's health were their own fault. Poverty took a toll on women's health and the minister did not even begin to understand that.

It was offensive to talk about women as Mrs Currie had and to blame them for seeking relief through smoking from the ten-

it. The breast cancer screening programme, which would be completed by 1990, was expected to reduce deaths by a third.

It was the first nationwide, comprehensive, breast-cancer screening service in the world.

Deaths among women from lung cancer had risen by 27 per cent to 11,000 last year and it appeared set to overtake breast cancer as the main killer.

The pattern of smoking among young women, particularly secondary school girls, was causing concern and the Government had commissioned research on this.

Ms Jo Richardson, chief

Opposition spokesman on women, said she refuted the minister's view that a lot of problems with women's health were their own fault. Poverty took a toll on women's health and the minister did not even begin to understand that.

It was offensive to talk about women as Mrs Currie had and to blame them for seeking relief through smoking from the ten-



Mrs Currie: Breast feeding is better.

sions which in many ways her Government had put upon them.

Mr Teresa Gorman (Billerica, C) said that, when menopausal, women became an embarrassment. When she had suffered this problem she had decided to do something about it and received hormone replacement treatment at King's College Hospital. The result was

that instead of falling to pieces she was now a reconstructed woman.

She had established a committee to raise money for a national research and development centre.

Ms Joan Walley (Stoke-on-Trent North, Lab) said that the minister had talked about encouraging breast feeding, but often hard-pressed midwives were not available to give advice to new mothers about it.

Mr Ronald Fearn (Southport, SLD) said that the number of midwives should be increased and after-care services expanded. More women were being sent home 24 hours after giving birth because of financial and staffing pressures.

Ms Hilary Armstrong (North-West Durham, Lab) said that there ought to be research into the suggestion that incidence of cervical cancer was greater in areas of "dirty jobs", such as mining and steel production. Many were convinced that there was a link.

Next week at Westminster

Labour MPs may delay Housing Bill

The Government will face angry Labour protests over its conduct of the Housing Bill, which dominates Commons business on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (Nicholas Wood writes).

The Opposition is furious that ministers have put down more than 180 new clauses or amendments to the Bill after the completion of its Commons committee stage and it is demanding more time to debate the mammoth measure, aimed at revitalizing the private rented sector and giving council tenants new powers to choose a landlord.

Yesterday, Mr Clive Soley, the Labour housing spokesman, said that he was examining options for delaying the passage of the Bill unless ministers agreed to an extra day's debate.

He said that if the request was denied he would ask the Speaker to reconvene the standing committee so that important matters such as the setting up of a new housing corporation for Wales could be properly scrutinized.

Ministers have brought forward amendments and guidelines aimed at giving greater choice to council tenants and to provide stronger guarantees for

those who exercise their right to pick a new landlord.

The new amendments are to stop large-scale public housing monopolies being converted into large private housing monopolies and to ensure that new landlords are independent of local authorities.

On Thursday, the Criminal Justice Bill, covering a host of items such as extradition, confiscation of the proceeds of serious crime, closed-circuit television court evidence from abused children, the ending of the defence right to peremptory challenges to jurors and the carrying of knives, will continue

its report stage in the Commons.

Friday will see a Commons debate on the growth of the tourism industry, in which Mr John Lee, the Minister for Tourism, is expected to follow up his announcement of March's record figures for overseas visitors — up 100,000 to 1 million — by emphasizing the importance of quality of service and proper training for people working in the sector.

The House of Lords will devote most of Monday, Tuesday and Thursday to the continuing committee stage of the Local Government Finance Bill — the poll-tax measure.

Hong Kong's people voting with their feet

The people of Hong Kong were voting on their future with their feet. Up to 30,000 were expected to leave this year, Lady Young (C), a former Foreign Office Minister, said during a House of Lords debate on the colony.

She and other peers expressed concern about the draft basic law being discussed for Hong Kong after it returns to Chinese control in 1997.

The Government was also urged to tackle the weekly influx of Vietnamese refugees into the colony.

Lady Young said that on a recent visit to Hong Kong she found a booming economy but people were still leaving. There were worries that certain clauses of the basic law left the door open for abuse of human rights and did not appear to give an absolute guarantee of continued democracy after 1997.

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhys, leader of the Labour peers, said that there were not enough provisions to guarantee direct elections after 1997.

"It seems to weigh too heavily on the side of the Chinese Government in appointing the executive."

Lord Bingham-Carter (SLD) said that although the Chinese appeared to guarantee the political independence of the colony, several clauses in the draft basic law placed the ultimate power to interpret the law with the Chinese People's National Congress.

Lord Glenarthur, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said that the basic law, as now drafted, was no more than an initial text. Parts of it were not right, but also acknowledged by Chinese spokesmen.

The 27,000 emigrants from Hong Kong last year was an increase on 1986 but was not out of line with the historical average.

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Euphoric Reagan may rob Bush of his winning aces

How quickly those pictures from Red Square have faded. The Moscow summit, a media extravaganza that dominated American thoughts and screens for a whole week, now seems an epoch away. Indeed, for both countries it was a dreamy and distracting interlude amid more pressing domestic concerns. The Russians are preoccupied with the struggle between conservatives and reformers; the Americans are engrossed in the presidential election.

The memories linger on, however, in President Reagan's mind. Indeed, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev seems to have won the battle of the proverbs, as the truth of his opening salvo becomes evident: better to see once than to hear a hundred times.

Mr Reagan was deeply im-

pressed by what he saw. He has been talking about it, in increasingly sentimental terms, ever since — recalling the Soviet people as the “warmest, friendliest, nicest people you could ever meet”, speaking with incredulity of his stroll along Arbat Street, and referring again to Mr Gorbachev as a friend.

The irony is that, in repudiating his earlier vision of an evil empire, President Reagan has left his own bedrock supporters stranded on the shores of the Cold War. He has swung round so far that there is more difference now between Reagan Mark I and Reagan Mark II than there is between today's herald of new Soviet-American friendship and the Democrats.

Even moderate Republicans have felt the need to sound a

warning note. Mr Frank Carlucci, the Defence Secretary, has said that helping the Soviet Union to modernize its economy might be an “enormous miscalculation”, and that the West should not relax its face of an unchanged Soviet military threat.

Mr Reagan won vigorous bipartisan applause here for his performance in Moscow — both for his championing of human rights and his caution in not rushing forward on arms control. He has certainly revived his standing and popularity with ordinary Americans — who are quite prepared, once again, to overlook the gaffe on American Indians, the nodding off at the Bolshoi and the flummery press conferences. But in electoral terms, his summit performance may be more questionable.

Indeed, Vice-President George Bush clearly believes it has done him no good at all.

Mr Reagan virtually bound Mr Bush to continue the new policies on arms control and détente. But is there now any reason why this should be the work of a Republican? Hasn't Mr Reagan made the world seem safer for a Michael Dukakis, a less turbulent and

conservative columnist, put it succinctly: “Dukakis may never have met a weapons system he liked. But even his likely defence budget would be way too big if President Reagan is right about the Cold War being over... If Reagan is right, the stakes of American politics are suddenly much lower than they were and it matters less who wins elections. If Reagan is wrong, but Bush thinks as Reagan does, the choice between Bush and Dukakis does not matter all that much.”

Mr Bush has attempted to show that he does not necessarily think as Mr Reagan does. He has voiced public scepticism over the changes in the Soviet Union and insisted on the continued need for American vigilance, and allowed himself a small hint of disagreement with

his boss. For Mr Bush knows that he needs the right to bolster his flagging campaign.

Columnists have done their best to counter the Reagan conversion. William Safire accused the Western press of falling for the deception that the communist system had changed. William Buckley remarked sarcastically that Mr Reagan was engaged not in forgiveness of the “evil empire” but in what George Orwell called “vaporization”. “Big Brother decides to change a historical or a present fact, and evidence inconvenient to the new thesis is simply made to disappear.”

He added, in language calculated to be offensive, that to greet change in the Soviet Union “as if it were no longer evil is on the order of changing our entire

position toward Adolf Hitler on receiving the news that he has abolished one extermination camp.”

But the summit has highlighted an increasing consensus on foreign policy, at least on the big questions of East-West relations and arms control. The Democratic centre has made common cause with the Republican moderates, and even former President Gerald Ford, once the victim of Mr Reagan's strident anti-communism, could only remark wryly: “I guess you live and learn.”

All this robs Mr Bush of one of his trump cards: foreign policy experience and proven toughness in dealing with the Russians. Republican strategists may wish the summit had turned out otherwise.

Poll shows Jackson would cost Dukakis victory in election

From Michael Binyon, Washington

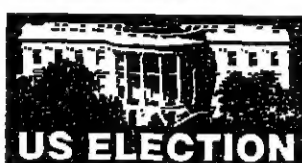
If the Rev Jesse Jackson were to be made the Democratic vice-presidential candidate, his presence on the ticket would lose the election for Governor Michael Dukakis, according to a new poll.

A survey released yesterday by the newspaper USA Today said that Mr Dukakis would beat Vice-President George Bush comfortably if he picked any vice-presidential candidate other than Mr Jackson. More than half the respondents also rejected Mr Jackson's argument that he had earned a place on the ticket or in the Cabinet because of his strong primary showings.

The poll of 1,253 voters showed that, if Mr Dukakis picked Senator John Glenn of Ohio as his running mate, he would beat Mr Bush by 48 to 40 per cent; if he picked Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey, he would beat Mr Bush by 45 to 39 per cent. But if he chose Mr Jackson, he would lose to Mr Bush by 47 to 40 per cent.

The poll found, however, that Mr Dukakis was now in such a strong position that, without naming a vice-presidential candidate, he has a margin over Mr Bush of seven points — 45 to 38 per cent. This reflects other recent polls showing Mr Dukakis winning decisively in November.

There appears to be little sentiment among US voters



that Mr Jackson is entitled to be offered the vice-presidency: 60 per cent said he should not be guaranteed a Cabinet post, and 59 per cent said he should not be promised a “major policy-making role” in a Dukakis administration.

Some 52 per cent said he had not “earned” any guarantee; 35 per cent said he had. Black voters, however, disagreed: 57 per cent said he deserved the vice-presidency, 54 per cent a Cabinet post and 58 per cent a policy role.

Mr Bush yesterday kept up his attacks on Mr Dukakis. On Thursday he called Mr Dukakis a 1960s-style liberal, and said he had developed his political philosophy in academia and not the real world.

He accused Mr Dukakis of supporting more government and higher taxes, of being ready to cut “the muscle of our defence”, and of propounding a view of the world “that is shaped by the old inconsistencies of the left”. Mr Bush said he was convinced the US did not want to move left. He said that would be the choice in the election.

Officials from the Demo-

cratic National Committee, meeting on Mackinac Island in Michigan in the absence of both Mr Dukakis and Mr Jackson, were trying to reconcile opposing views on South Africa, which Mr Jackson wants branded a terrorist nation, and also discussed terrorism.

Mr Jackson is pressing for a tough stand on drugs, big defence cuts and tax increases on the wealthy and big industry. He has warned that, if he is unhappy with the draft, he will take his opposition to the convention in Atlanta next month.

● **BOGOTA:** Mr Dukakis has pledged to work closely with Latin American leaders “to construct a future of democracy and respect for human rights” if he is elected in November (Geoffrey Matthews writes).

In an interview with a Colombian television network on Thursday, Mr Dukakis said he wanted to revive the spirit of President John Kennedy's “Alliance for Progress” initiative in the region and sharply criticized the Reagan Administration's record, particularly in Nicaragua and Panama.

He said US support for the Nicaraguan Contras was “illegal and a disaster”, and described Washington's efforts to oust General Noriega of Panama as a “fiasco”.

Chinese guard US interests



A Chinese soldier standing guard outside the United States Embassy in Peking yesterday after Chinese authorities revealed that there had been a terrorist threat to Americans by an unidentified “third country”. An embassy spokesman said the Chinese Government had urged the mission to inform the estimated 1,500 Americans living in the Chinese capital of the threat (Reuter reports). But the advice subsequently issued by the embassy contained no specific information of a possible attack. An embassy statement spoke of “a genuine threat to American citizens in Peking”. It added: “American citizens should avoid locations known to be gathering points for Americans or foreigners, such as certain restaurants, markets and nightclubs.” A Western diplomat called the warning “absolutely unprecedented but declined to speculate on who was making the threat. Americans resident in Peking were formally warned of possible attacks following the US bombing of Tripoli, the Libyan capital, in 1986. China is regarded as one of the safest countries in the context of terrorism.

Media madness leaves French voters unmoved

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

It seemed during the recent presidential election campaign that the faces of M Francois Mitterrand, M Jacques Chirac, M Jean-Marie Le Pen and the others began to haunt people.

They stared out from posters plastered all over the country and aired their views continually on television, radio and in public meetings.

The French were experiencing a campaign where, for the first time, the image appeared to be mightier than the word. It is by no means sure that they liked what they saw. The present parliamentary election campaign has gone in the opposite direction — there is no national publicity campaign to be seen either from the right or the left, apart from M Le Pen.

True, the mere three weeks between President Mitterrand's dissolution of parliament and the two polling days have allowed no time to organize campaigning. But valuable lessons have been drawn on what was seen as a publicity overkill on the part of M Chirac and the skill with which M Mitterrand's more subtle campaign has carried an image of a united France forward into these general elections.

Talking to the often shadowy figures who groom top French politicians a striking difference in approach emerges between M Mitterrand's advisers and those of M Chirac.

It is generally accepted that the French have lost interest in old political divisions in favour of a reassuring figurehead who will guide them through an uncertain world. M Claude Marti, who runs his own successful marketing consultancy agency, has been advising President Mitterrand since 1983 and has been a close friend of the Prime Minister, M Michel Rocard, for 15 years. He says he bases his advice to both on what he hears and sees at grass roots level.

“My relationship with both men is a personal one based on friendship — as a confidential doctor or lawyer might be in a position of trust,” he says. Each have their marketing wizards, but M Marti is said to plan strategies.

“I told the President five years ago that the French did not want a partisan head of state — they wanted a President who took care of them all,” he said. “We have built on that ever since — you see with what success.”

“I am very opposed to publicity. If you just try to create an image in France you come a cropper. The French were very anti-advertising until the eighties when escapism ads began, based on humour and sexual seduction. People found that fun and amusing.”

“But, unlike the United States, this form of advertising does not apply to politicians. It would be impossible to treat politicians like products.”

“I am a great advocate of media silence,” said M Marti. This was shown in M Mitterrand's late declaration on his presidential candidacy, his minimal exposure during that campaign, and the fact that he has handed the low-key general election campaign over completely to M Rocard.

M Chirac, on the other hand, went all out to seduce the electorate. His poster campaign for the presidential elec-

tion was mounted by a leading publicist who handles Club Méditerranée. A bronzed, seductive Chirac appeared to devour people with his eyes. A real-life permanent tan became a feature of his campaign.

“Chirac became a product,” says Mme Sylvie Blum, a marketing expert. “French tradition and culture will not stand for that.”

Image et Stratégie is a marketing and advertising agency which works exclusively for the conservatives. It is handling the local-level poster and publicity campaigns of about 35 conservative parliamentary candidates. Their director, general M Jean-Marie Millou, still talks in terms of reduction being the way to reach the French public.

Paris — On the eve of the final round of the French parliamentary election, Mrs Thatcher's flying visit to Paris yesterday for meetings with President Mitterrand and the French Prime Minister, M Michel Rocard, appears to have passed off smoothly (Philip Jacobson writes). After talks over lunch with M Mitterrand at the Elysée Palace, Mrs Thatcher had a short meeting with her opposite number. The main matters discussed in the meeting with M Mitterrand concerned differing approaches to fiscal and financial issues within the European Community. With the European Council meeting in Hanover approaching, the two leaders were said to have devoted most attention to ensuring the free movement of capital between member countries.

However, he admits that recent voting surprises have shown that people do not want change. They voted for M Mitterrand as a paternal protective figure, not as a socialist — “The local campaigns now are based on the reliability of the local man. On a national level it warns against putting all political eggs in one basket by voting in a large socialist majority.”

Opinion polls show that the French are frightened that deep-rooted political traditions will be turned into mere slick slogans and, as the United States, the ability to get a political message across will depend on the money available to do so.

“In France,” says Mlle Laurette de Souttrai, director of communication for M Chirac's Rassemblement pour la République party, “it is still the politicians who make all strategy decisions.”

As M Rocard puts it: “The professionals that I call on are those who help me to express what I believe, not those who amputate it.”

“The art of communication must not degenerate into a ‘look’, a gadget, a slogan.”

Only politicians, says another media man, could have dreamt up the initials URC for the campaign alliance between M Chirac's party and the centre-right Union pour la Démocratie Française.

“The idea of the union is good but the initials sound like a burp.”

“Obviously no party chief thought of checking with their communications people first,” he says.

Roberto Suro

Students riot for the right to cheat

Dhaka (Reuter) — Nearly 70 people were injured when Bangladesh students, demanding the right to cheat during college final examinations, fought teachers and police with stones and home-made bombs, police said yesterday.

Police fired birdshot, used batons and arrested more than a dozen people while dispersing hundreds of students who ransacked examination centres at Narsingdi, about 30 miles from Dhaka. Police fought running battles with students in more than 100 centres across the country.

The violence erupted when students protesting against the tight monitoring of examinations, demanded help from friends outside. At some places students attacked teachers with sticks and stones and shouted: “We seek the right to copy,” witnesses said.

More than 1,000 students were expelled on the first day of the examinations which began on Thursday, education officials said. They said nearly 500 people were injured in similar clashes during final examinations in March.

Speaker faces inquiry

Washington — The House Ethics Committee is to begin an official inquiry into the financial dealings of the Democratic Speaker, Representative Jim Wright, who is facing six charges of misconduct (Michael Binyon writes).

The preliminary inquiry will be carried out by a 12-member panel, composed equally of Republicans and Democrats, who will investigate allegations against Mr Wright over his use of a paid congressional aide to help write his autobiography, excessive royalties he is said to have earned, and alleged use of influence with the US and Egyptian Governments in 1979 to help two Texas oil ventures. Mr Wright has maintained he has not violated any House ethics rules and says he welcomes the inquiry.

Jail chiefs suspended

Valletta — The head of Malta's civil prison and his chief officer have been suspended and face dismissal after a board of inquiry found that prisoners had been subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment (Austin Sammut writes).

The board's report, published this week, said that the presence in the prison of the director of prisons, Mr Ronald Theuma, and the chief officer, Mr Albert Mulvanui, was incompatible with the way in which prisoners were treated. It alleged that there were regular beatings, deprivation of normal food and basic sanitary facilities, lengthy periods of solitary confinement contrary to prison regulations, that prisoners were deprived of clothes and blankets during the winter and that fights were kept on all night in cells.

East bloc woos EEC

Brussels — The Soviet Union and East Germany have requested full diplomatic relations and an exchange of ambassadors with the European Community, losing no time in following up the declaration of mutual recognition between the EEC and the East bloc economic grouping, Comecon, initiated in Moscow on Thursday (Jonathan Braude writes). Other East European countries have said they expect to follow suit soon. Mr Willy de Clerq, the EEC Commissioner for Trade, welcomed the decision as a contribution to détente.

Shultz warns Nato

Madrid — Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, warned all Nato allies yesterday to keep up their defence spending while continuing negotiations on arms reductions with the Warsaw Pact (Our Foreign Staff writes).

At the Nato foreign ministers meeting in Madrid, Mr Shultz was careful to avoid any harsh criticism of individual allies for failing to take a fair share of the responsibility for keeping the peace in Europe. But he singled out Denmark, which has decided to freeze its defence budget

Tehran and London near accord

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain and Iran yesterday reached “broad agreement” on compensation for damage to each other's embassies, leaving only minor technical points to be settled.

The Foreign Office said the agreement was “on the basis” of Britain's offer to pay Iran £1.8 m for damage caused when the SAS stormed its embassy in 1980 after it had been occupied by a terrorist group. The offer was linked to a British demand for £900,000 compensation for damage to British diplomatic property in Iran during and after the Iranian revolution of 1979.

“We and the Iranians have agreed that we both need more time to consider this further,” the statement said. But Whitehall sources said the agreement was “90 per cent in the bag” and that Iran had accepted the main points of the offer. Neither side thought it

necessary to have another round of talks, but there will be further exchanges through diplomatic channels.

Mr Mohammad Mehdi Akhond Zadeh Basti, the Iranian Chargé d'Affaires in London, said as he left the talks that there was agreement on the amounts, but differences remained on the mode of payment. “There is goodwill on both sides,” he said.

Britain and Iran appeared to be hoping that the three days of talks would help to improve relations. They were the first real negotiations, apart from visits to the Foreign Office by Mr Basti, since relations were virtually mothballed last June.

Although the fate of British hostages in Beirut was not discussed, colleagues of Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, said they felt encouraged that

the two countries were talking to each other again.

The colleagues were intrigued by a link reported by The Times yesterday between Mr Waite and an Iranian prisoner in Britain who was released by the Home Office last month. An official said it appeared to be a coincidence.

It came about because of two trips made by Mr Waite to Tehran in December 1980 and February 1981 to negotiate the release of British missionaries arrested during the Iranian revolution. He flew back after the second trip with Miss Jean Waddell, secretary to the Bishop of Iran, the Rt Rev H B Dehqani-Tafli, and a couple from the Anglican Church Missionary Society, Dr John Coleman and his wife Mary.

While discussing their release with the Revolutionary Guards, Mr Waite was asked to visit two Iranian prisoners

held on bombing charges in London. He kept the promise and delivered tape recordings of the Koran to an Iranian Consular official who had been permanently blinded by a bomb blast in a London hotel. He also visited a co-defendant, Mr Ebadollah Nooripour, then aged 28, whose uncle had been killed in the blast.

“I had asked the Iranians at Christmas to play the game with our people (the missionaries), and I just wanted to be consistent,” Mr Waite said later.

The consular official was subsequently cleared, but Mr Nooripour was jailed for 12 years. As reported yesterday, he was released in May after serving the sentence less one third remission.

The Home and Foreign Offices have said that his release was a routine matter

Briton facing death sentence is freed

By Our Foreign Staff

The Supreme Court in Rangoon yesterday overturned a lower court ruling sentencing a British teacher to death for killing his Malaysian-born wife, after a key witness retracted his testimony.

Thomas Andrew Kirkpatrick, aged 40, of Suffolk, and his Burmese cook, Saw William, aged 42, were convicted last December for the murder of Lynn Kirkpatrick in May, 1986.

The Supreme Court reduced Saw William's sentence to life imprisonment and Mr Kirkpatrick was freed.

At the trial the cook said he had carried out Mr Kirkpatrick's request to kill his wife and burn her body. Her

remains were found in the couple's home in a wealthy Rangoon suburb on May 17, 1986.

The cook said Mr Kirkpatrick was having an affair with a British teacher in Rangoon and his wife was creating problems between them. The cook later retracted the statement, saying he made it under police pressure.

The woman teacher, who worked at the Foreign Language Institute in Rangoon and who was identified only as “Miss Helen”, testified to having an affair with Mr Kirkpatrick.

Mrs Kirkpatrick, who was an ethnic Chinese and a British citizen, died two weeks

after she and her baby arrived in Rangoon to join her husband. Mr Kirkpatrick taught English at Rangoon's Institute of Education under the Colombo Plan, in which Britain, Canada and other countries give aid to poor nations.

Mr Kirkpatrick, from Helions Bumpstead, near Saffron Walden, Essex, was released from his “death row” chalet at Burma's notorious Insein jail.

Mr Kirkpatrick, who always maintained his innocence, appealed on the grounds that vital forensic evidence proving his wife was alive when the fire started had been ignored by the Burmese court.

Defence lawyers argued that

Mrs Kirkpatrick was a heavy drinker and smoker who may have set fire to the house either accidentally or deliberately when she realized her marriage was over.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the appeal court had acquitted Mr Kirkpatrick of killing his wife, and he would be seen by consular officials from the British Embassy.

At the Bell College, Saffron Walden, where Mr Kirkpatrick taught English before he left for Burma, a former colleague, Mr Tony Hopwood, said: “It is wonderful news. No one who knew Andy believed he could have killed his wife. The whole thing has been a bizarre nightmare.”

Rome may have been built a day earlier than we thought

Rome (NYT) — In a discovery that might require the rewriting of Ancient Roman history, archaeologists digging on a slope of the Palatine Hill last week unearthed what they believe is the defensive wall that was built when Rome was founded.

The archaeologists say the discovery of the wall, together with other recent finds near by in the Forum, show that Rome emerged as a dynamic society in the 7th and 6th centuries BC, significantly earlier than had been previously calculated.

As a result, the scholars argue for a thorough reassessment of the once common view that the Romans followed the Etruscans to the north and the Greeks to the south in their cultural development. In the new view, early Romans should be depicted as full contributors to the development of city state civilization in Italy, rather than as recipients of the benefits of more advanced cultures.

In addition, in perhaps the most contentious point associated with the discoveries,

some of the archaeologists working here say they have uncovered the first hard evidence to support the legends that the foundation of Rome was a specific historical act. Most contemporary historians, however, dismiss as fable the tale that Romulus founded Rome in 753 BC and built a wall at the place where he and his twin brother, Remus, were suckled by a she-wolf in their infancy.

Much more than ancient dates are at stake in this debate, which has increasingly preoccupied archaeologists

over the past 20 years. It is a matter of when Rome began to be Rome.

The results of the excavation have not yet been published and are known only to a small number of specialists. Much of the recently uncovered material has yet to be fully evaluated, and archaeologists at the site emphasized that their interpretations of the evidence are hypotheses.

Scholars elsewhere, when asked for their reaction to the finds, tended to be cautious, if not sceptical, about claims that link the wall to the

founding of Rome. But they enthusiastically welcomed the possibility of developing the first extensive body of archaeological material on the mysterious period from about 800 BC to 500 BC, when Rome moved quickly from a collection of wattle huts to a city of great temples.

Mr Richard Brilliant, professor of art history and archaeology at Columbia University, who visited the site last month, said: “If the hypotheses being developed there are right, and I think in their broad outlines they must

be, then this material will revolutionize our knowledge of Rome during a critical period of its development.”

Mr Colin Renfrew, a classical archaeologist at Cambridge University, while enthusiastic about the discovery, cautioned about linking it too closely to the founding of Rome. “Finding a wall there may be very important, but it is not amazing because one would expect to find walls near the hills of Rome,” he said.

Roberto Suro

Tutu stays defiant as Botha tightens gag on his critics

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

President Botha moved yesterday to try to silence, or at least muffle, virtually all radical black opponents of the Government still at large and vocal, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the head of the Anglican Church in southern Africa, and his outspoken fellow clergyman, Dr Allan Boesak of the Dutch Reformed Church.

Archbishop Tutu immediately served notice that he has no intention of going quietly. He issued a statement from his office in Cape Town calling the renewal of the two-year, nationwide state of emergency, which was proclaimed in yesterday's *Government Gazette*, "a pointless and bankrupt exercise".

Under the new state of emergency, which will last for 12 months unless ended sooner by President Botha, all existing curbs on the news media and anti-apartheid individuals and extra-parliamentary organizations are retained, and in some crucial respects they are broadened and tightened.

Justifying the continuation of the emergency, which also gives sweeping powers to the police to arrest and detain

without trial any person deemed a threat to public safety, Mr Botha said that "there still exists a notable revolutionary climate in the country".

A background document released by the Government's Bureau for Information claimed that, while "unrest-related incidents" had decreased during the previous two years of emergency rule, the number of acts of terrorism had gone up, showing that "the revolutionary climate underlying the unrest situation has not been sufficiently combated".

Archbishop Tutu said that the new emergency "does nothing to address the central issue of power-sharing" or "to end the institutionalized violence which is the source of all political violence in South Africa. Instead it creates an atmosphere conducive to more state violence".

Among the new and tougher restrictions is a clause prohibiting quoting any member of an unlawful organization, such as the African National Congress, even if the person concerned is not "listed" (banned). This closes a loophole that previously allowed a number of the

ANC's leaders to be quoted here.

It also becomes an offence for a newspaper to indicate by means of "an express statement or a sign or a symbol" that part of the text of a report has been omitted to comply with the emergency regulations, meaning readers will no longer know when information has been suppressed.

The Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, is also given the power to extend by two months, without further warning, the three-month suspension he can already impose on newspapers deemed to be publishing subversive propaganda.

All previously existing restrictions on news media are renewed, including the ban on unauthorized reporting of unrest and the actions of the security forces.

In practice, foreign correspondents here have until now largely ignored the restrictions. *The Times* will continue to inform its readers when it feels unable to report fully because of the restrictions. Television journalists, physically prohibited from filming scenes of unrest, continue to be severely restricted. Leading article, page 11

Heading towards Arab unity



King Fahd of Saudi Arabia adjusting his headress at the closing session of the Arab League summit in Algiers. During the talks the King pledged support for the Palestinian cause and condemned Iran over the Gulf War. Mr Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, hailed the support of Arab leaders as "a victory for our people inside the occupied territories fighting military occupation" (Reuters reports). Moderates and hardliners among the often-divided Arabs closed ranks behind the PLO to support the uprising. They also condemned US plans for peace as nothing more than a helping hand for

Israel. A jubilant Mr Arafat told a press conference early yesterday that the summit's vote of confidence in the PLO showed that "the Arab world stands behind the Palestinian uprising. The children who throw stones in Palestine say: 'We will fight on.'", he said. Conservative states allied with Iraq secured summit condemnation of Iran, while Libya revelled in the meeting's denunciation of Washington. The 21 member states renewed aid of \$1.9 billion overall to countries bordering Israel. The sum earmarked to bolster the Palestinian uprising was kept secret.

Army thwarts peace mission by Israeli left

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

A peace mission by a left-wing group of Jews, who hoped to plant olive trees in a Palestinian town, was yesterday blocked by the Israeli Army as a security risk.

For the Israeli peace movement, the village of Beitir, near Nablus, has become a symbol of the worst aspects of the occupation. A new committee of left-wing organizations has been formed to try to make Beitir an example of coexistence between Arabs and Jews.

Two months ago an Israeli teenage girl died at the village during a violent clash. She was shot by a man guarding her hiking party when he was hit on the head by a stone after killing two villagers. A crowd had been throwing stones at the hikers. Some of the hikers were injured, although several were rescued by villagers who hid them in their homes.

The girl's death brought swift retribution from the Army. It blew up 15 houses — one of them without legal justification. Many other buildings were damaged. Six villagers were deported and dozens arrested, 30 of whom are still in prison. As a communal punishment the surrounding olive trees, so important to the village, were destroyed.

A report by the Army later condemned the organizers of the hike for not taking adequate precautions, including notifying the military authorities. In future all such events were to be co-ordinated with the Army.

Yesterday's demonstration was not co-ordinated. The trouble was that the organizers failed to think their plan through. They obtained "permission" from the Arabs but failed to get army clearance.

About 50 would-be tree-planters set off from Jerusalem aboard two coaches, carrying hoes and wearing T-shirts with peace slogans. Their leader, Mr Amnon Raz, said: "We want to turn Beitir from a symbol of destruction into a symbol of Arab-Israeli coexistence."

As the buses set off, an army command car fell in behind, running through red lights in its eagerness to keep up. A soldier in a red baseball cap took careful note of the following cars. Five miles up the

road a spiked roadblock was dragged quickly across the road as the convoy approached. Vehicles with both Arab and Israeli plates were waved through, but the road was designated "a closed military area" to the peace party.

Mr Raz argued in vain as a settlers' minibus pulled up and its driver, with a pistol in his belt and a yarmulka on his head, took out a box full of ice lollies and handed them to the troops manning the roadblock. "Well done, boys," he said, scowling at the buses. Mr Raz gave up and turned the convoy back to Jerusalem.

At the East Jerusalem bus station, the group decided to split up, taking separate cars and taxis to try to reach Beitir by different routes. The soldier in the red baseball cap relayed this information over his radio.

On a remote road 10 miles north of Jerusalem, another roadblock was already in place. By now the orders were to turn back all private vehicles not driven by locals.

The way to Beitir was barred, but with three determined young students in the back of our car, we tried to outflank the Army. Deep in the hills behind Ramallah, on a road stained black by burnt tyres and strewn with rocks, it seemed the way might be clear. But the Army was already blocking the essential road junction and waved us up a tiny track in what they knew was the wrong direction.

As we plunged deeper into an area which Palestinians boast as "liberated territory", the youngsters in the back grew more and more nervous. They seemed to breathe easier when we turned back.

But back in the safety of West Jerusalem they promised: "We shall try again. The Arabs must be able to see we can live together."

Home destroyed: Israeli troops yesterday destroyed the home of a Palestinian whom they said confessed to stabbing the Israeli-appointed mayor of El Bireh in the occupied West Bank (Reuters reports). Security sources said Mr Kahmris Araj, aged 26, of Jelazoua refugee camp was arrested during the night and his home was blown up about 12 hours later. He has not yet been charged.

Fraud claims in Sri Lanka poll

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

Allegations of widespread rigging by the government party yesterday accompanied the results of a crucial election to create a new provincial council in the deep south of Sri Lanka.

The election, boycotted by the principal opposition party and threatened with murderous violence by a left-wing group of militant Sinhalese gunmen, was part of the devolution of power compelled on the Sri Lankan Government under the terms of last year's accord with neighbouring India.

As a result very few either dared or bothered to vote. But journalists visiting the districts said large numbers of young civilian men toured the area in buses, often carrying shotguns or rifles, and queued at different polling stations to cast numerous votes.

"I spoke to one man who said he had voted 16 times," said Mr Prasanna Hennayaka, a freelance photographer. Mr Qadri Ismail, of the Sri Lankan *Sunday Times*, said: "At a polling station in Devinuwara town, I saw a queue of 25 young men waiting to vote. The presiding officer was not present, and the men were not being marked with indelible ink, as is normal."

"A man who seemed to be in charge refused to let me talk to the men. At the next polling station only 12 people had voted altogether at that time. We saw a large number of

state buses, private buses and private Land-Rovers on the roads, all full of young men like this. There were no other vehicles about, except for journalists and security forces."

Another correspondent saw a similar group of young men descend from a bus in Tangalle town. They were jeered, he said, by local people, who later complained that they had impersonated local people to vote.

Despite this kind of activity reported throughout the three districts of the Southern province, the actual turnout of voters measured by the ballots counted was still unusually low. One district, Hambantota, where the militant extremists are strong, recorded only a 7.8 per cent turnout.

In Matara district the turnout was 20.3 per cent, and in Galle a turnout of 36 per cent took the overall total to only 24.5 per cent — well below the 40 per cent quoted to me beforehand by a senior Cabinet minister as adequate to give the new council credibility.

The ruling United National Party won 35 of the 53 seats on the council. It has now won control of all seven of the provincial councils for which elections have been held.

It only remains for an election to be held in the combined Northern and Eastern provinces for the process of devolution to be complete.

Zimbabwe's gaffe

Harare — The ruling Zanu party's grandiose headquarters in Harare is closer to meeting its building costs, thanks to the proceeds of bouts by a British professional wrestler who, officials say, is to appear on the next sports blacklist of the United Nations special committee on apartheid (Jan Raath writes). Newspapers have reported that although Mr Martin Austin, known as "Giant Haystacks", was not on the UN blacklist, he had fought in South Africa in 1986 and in 1984. Zimbabwe ardently subscribes to the blacklist's implementation. A spokesman for the Zimbabwe Boxing and Wrestling Board of Control said he "definitely did not know" of Mr Austin's South African appearances.

Warning sign

Melbourne (Reuters) — A teenager who broke the drink-driving law in Victoria is to keep his licence but must put a sign on his car for a year warning others that he once drove after drinking.

Jail break

Laval, Quebec (Reuters) — Three convicts shot their way out of a maximum security jail, wounding a guard and taking two hostages.

Mine toll rises

Borken, West Germany (AP) — The discovery of two more bodies in the Borken mine left only one man still missing after the country's worst mining disaster in 26 years.

Lusaka blast

Lusaka (AP) — A bomb went off in a Lusaka suburb near the home of African National Congress officials, injuring a girl aged 12, Zambian police said.

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Managua threatens to curb opposition as Contra talks fail

From David Gollob, Managua

The Sandinista Government has warned that it may clamp down on opposition activity after the collapse of peace negotiations with the Contras.

Those who see the Contras as supermen, as their saviours, will have to be more careful," the Defence Minister, General Humberto Ortega, said after three days of talks failed to turn a temporary ceasefire agreement into a permanent peace.

The Contras said this would be the last round of negotiations they would attend under the terms of the ceasefire pact signed on March 23. However, they insisted that they were still committed to reaching a negotiated solution.

"Sandinistas reject peace," ran the banner headline in the opposition newspaper, *La Prensa*. The paper, an obvious target of the Government, had spurned the Contra's proposal for reforms.

With only two hours to go before the talks were due to end, the Contras tabled a new set of demands which exceeded by far their previous roughly-worded proposals. The six-page document demanded the resignation of the entire Supreme Court, the

demobilization of tens of thousands of army conscripts, and the liberation within five days of all prisoners in government jails.

Contra forces would have until January 31, 1989, to give up their weapons. By that time elections for a new National Assembly would have to be held. Under this scenario, the Contra army could remain intact throughout the election campaign and only surrender arms once it approved of the result.

General Ortega denounced the proposal as "irrational and extremist".

"The Contras came to Managua with the clear intention of putting an end to the peace talks," the Deputy Foreign Minister, Señor Victor Hugo Tinoco, said. "They presented their proposal only two hours before the end of the meeting. We proposed a date for more talks but they rejected it. They said they would talk in the future, but they mean January next year, after Bush is elected."

Government negotiators were frustrated by the results of the talks because they had been led to believe that a deal was in the works. Mr Paul Reichler, an American lawyer

who represents the US Government and also acts as a consultant in the peace negotiations, surprised journalists by disclosing that he had held a series of secret, parallel talks with the Contras' chief negotiator, Señor Alfredo César. "There was an agreement reached with Alfredo César," he said, "which the Government was advised, through me, by Alfredo, would lead to the signing of an agreement by a majority of the (Contra) directors. The Government has fulfilled every one of those conditions now — in writing. And unfortunately Alfredo has been unable to deliver."

Mr Reichler said Señor César had admitted that the rebels' military commander, Colonel Enrique Bermudez, was the obstacle to an agreement. Señor César agreed that he had held private meetings with Mr Reichler, but rejected the story of a secret pact.

● **SAN JOSE:** Colonel Bermudez, who arrived in the Costa Rican capital yesterday, was the obstacle to an agreement. Rebel negotiators flew here after the talks collapsed.

Wave of student violence rocks Seoul

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

Militant students turned Seoul into a battleground yesterday when they tried in vain to fight their way out of the city for a meeting with North Korean students in a forbidden military zone on the border.

Riot police blockaded thousands of them on a university campus and beat off hundreds more besieging bus and railway stations.

The students, angered by the lack of official contacts with North Korea, took matters into their own hands by arranging talks with a 13-member mission from the Kim Il Sung University in Pyongyang. The Government, while publicly sympathizing with their motives, insisted that it should direct any such initiatives and banned the meeting.

The heaviest fighting was waged around Yonsei University in western Seoul. After parading around the campus for several hours chanting slogans, about 5,000 students gathered at the main entrance and jeered at police.

They made no attempt to march out on their intended journey to the zone. Instead, stones and petrol bombs were hurled at the police as dozens of youths wearing T-shirts proclaiming them to be the "vanguards of reunification" sprang towards them. A moment of unbridled savagery followed as the students beat the officers with metal pipes and wooden staves until being driven back by clubs, shields and volleys of tear gas.

Other groups mounted simi-



Students, with faces covered by scarves to counter tear gas, attacking riot police near Seoul's Yonsei University yesterday.

lar assaults at several points along a wide front, but the outnumbered police stood their ground. The battle raged for several hours. Serious casualties appeared to be relatively few, but at least one youth was carried away senseless and bleeding.

Meanwhile, several hundred students besieged Seoul's central railway station and the

area was rapidly shrouded in clouds of tear gas. Instead of attacking the police, many lay on the ground chanting slogans and were promptly seized by special snuff squads.

Last night hundreds of students were converging on an area of northern Seoul at the start of the main highway heading north. None got anywhere near Panmunjom, the

truce village deep within the forbidden military zone that had been chosen as the site for the planned meeting.

The violence was arguably the worst since President Roh took office at the head of a democratic administration in February, but it clearly failed to gain public support. Even in the universities, the militants represented only a tiny frac-

tion of a student population of almost a million. The students' demands range from discussions and sports meetings with North Korean students to the expulsion of US forces in South Korea. More ominously for the Olympics, they support Pyongyang's bid to co-host the Games, an idea which has been rejected by the organizers.

Tensions in Fiji

Indian farmer held after arms cache is found

From Humphrey Hawksley, Lautoka, Fiji

An Indian pig farmer awarded an MBE for services to agriculture is in police custody in this seaside town as police continue their investigation into weapon caches found in the area in the past week.

Mr Saha Deo is one of 21 Fijian Indians charged in connection with the arms, which police say were smuggled in in April and were discovered last weekend. A similar consignment was found by Australian authorities in Sydney late last month.

"We were all sleeping at about 1 am when the Army came here," said Mr Deo's daughter, Suman. "They went upstairs with their guns and told dad that he was being arrested."

Weapons buried in a palm grove in a neatly kept garden

She said the soldiers returned in the early hours of Monday and found a cache of arms in the garden of the farm, which is about a mile up a dirt track from the main coast road. The weapons were buried in a palm grove in Mr Deo's neatly kept garden.

The police have not detailed what they recovered from Mr Deo's property, but the shipment included automatic weapons, more than 45,000 rounds of ammunition and rocket launchers.

In a country which even after two coups remains largely peaceful, such a shipment could have caused havoc between the native community and the Indians, who are now in a slight majority. Their ancestors were brought here under British colonial rule.

Mr Deo, aged 47, is the epitome of what Fijian nationalists describe as the threat of the Indians in Fiji. He is wealthy and successful, diversifying from sugar cane into pig farming in 1972. His business is run by his Indian-style extended family.

Mr Deo has pleaded not guilty to the charges. His family say the arms may have been hidden by one of the many delivery men who come and go throughout the day. There is an added contradiction in that Mr Deo was a long-time supporter of the founding Prime Minister of Fiji, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, who was defeated by the mainly Indian Government in the elections last year.

Mr Deo was deterred by the socialist label pinned on that Government. With the military takeover, Ratu Mara is again Prime Minister in an interim government, which is meant to write a new constitution which would guarantee power to the Fijians.

A few miles along the coast in the pretty village of Viseisei, Ratu Mara's predecessor, Dr Timoci Bavadra, spent yesterday with workmen building his new house. Its design is tribal Fijian, made of indigenous reeds and wood. His present house is a bungalow, humble for a former Prime Minister. Dr Bavadra adds to the complexity of Fiji's problems because he says he is a staunch nationalist.

His wife, Andi Kuini, is the daughter of a tribal chief and

his motive for building a new house is not so much to move to more plush accommodation, but to send a message to extremists who cheered when his government was overthrown. "They accuse me of being responsible for the erosion of Fijian tradition and custom. Look at this — I am upholding tradition and custom."

Dr Bavadra, aged 53, is a medical doctor and was a senior civil servant until as late as 1985, when he and several political colleagues formed the Labour Party. Two years later they took power with a coalition government after a clean election. Although Dr Bavadra is a Fijian, most of his Cabinet were Indians. For many Fijians, such as Brigadier-General Sitiveni Rabuka, it was too much.

Dr Bavadra says he is still campaigning with the people in the villages to win their support — and, of course, regain some sort of power.

But that is unlikely. More than a year after the military takeover, friendly but initially angry foreign governments, such as Australia and Britain, are taking a more pragmatic view, mainly that there is a complex communal problem in Fiji which is going to take many years to solve.

The Prime Minister, Ratu Mara, supported by men such as Mr Deo, is a moderating force, but a reluctant one. He did not want to go back to government but, it is said, he realized his experience was needed. He has shown little interest during this latest arms crisis. As it began, he left for

Rabuka learning fast as politician, visionary, celebrity

Hawaii on what was described as a private visit.

It is no secret who is running the country in his absence — Brigadier Rabuka, the Home Minister in the interim Government. And Brigadier Rabuka, aged 39, is learning fast, as a politician, a visionary and a celebrity.

His book *No Other Way*, which explains his actions of the past year, is being promoted with signed posters of the muscular coup leader dressed in a singlet, with a gold neck-chain and a diver's watch on the wrist. He describes the military takeover as "a mission that God has given me" and as a Methodist preacher has spoken of converting the Indian community to Christianity.

Politically Brigadier Rabuka is finding his feet. He leans heavily on Ratu Mara for advice. "I call him Minister, not General, to remind him he's part of a civilian government," said one diplomat.

Military officer or Home Minister, Brigadier Rabuka says he wants to hand over power and go back to the barracks. But that is as unlikely as Dr Bavadra regaining the prime ministership.

"He'll be around for a long time," said one local businessman. "I've argued it out with him many times. The simple fact is that he started it, so he's got to finish."

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PEACE IN A WASTELAND?

Suddenly, South Africa has begun to slip the fetters imposed by the State of Emergency. As that emergency was extended into its third year, Pretoria was being battered by a series of events designed to re-focus world attention on the struggle for black liberation. The three-day stayaway called by South Africa's major black trade unions — a protest against new labour legislation — is being followed today by a pop concert at Wembley Stadium to mark Nelson Mandela's birthday. The BBC is due to broadcast the concert live for eight hours.

Some people will regard the pop spectacular as a worthy attempt to raise international consciousness. Others will be offended by this latest manifestation of the new banality which yokes pop music extravaganzas to political crises or national suffering and trivializes serious issues. Yet others have questioned the BBC's connection with an event where the funds raised will certainly find their way, however indirectly, into the coffers of the ANC. This is an organization which this week pledged itself once again to the use of terror against a civilian population.

These are serious arguments, but they overlook the trust behind events which seek to reawake the slumbering sense of crisis about South Africa and give fresh impetus to a campaign based on a false premise. The assumption that international pressure must inevitably bring down the white citadel of South Africa and cleanse the world of apartheid is profoundly misguided.

Manipulation is inherent in many political events, but it is particularly blatant in this case. Support for the trade union stayaway in South Africa was by no means as universal or coherent as its advocates have claimed. Its justification — the unions argue that the proposed legislation rolls back 10 years of trade union advance — begins on closer inspection to look a little threadbare. However sloppily drafted, the Bill is benign compared with Mrs Thatcher's attempts to curtail union powers.

The timing of the labour stayaway and the scale and publicity of the Mandela concert, however, acquire a new significance when one

looks across the Atlantic. Here are congressmen and senators supporting a Bill which would enact the most severe sanctions ever applied by one nation against another in peacetime.

They have made no secret of their belief that anti-apartheid activists will have to keep the spotlight on South Africa — and try to provoke a response from Pretoria — if the Bill is to be guaranteed free passage through an overburdened Senate in an election year. With the House of Representatives due to vote on the Bill before the end of the month, June and its emotive anniversaries — including that of the 1976 Soweto uprising — could be critical.

If passed, the Bill would effectively sever all American links, and thus influence, with South Africa. It would further impoverish that country's black citizens, enrich those whites with the funds to buy out departing American companies and frighten others into joining Dr Andries Treurnicht behind the barricades of far-right prejudice. It would also erode still further the middle ground on which black and white South Africans must meet if either is to survive.

This week, that middle ground grew a little as 65 per cent of the work force of the huge Anglo-American Corporation defied black trade union instructions and accepted the company's share offer to employees. This week, too, the state-owned transport system finally, if belatedly, scrapped apartheid signs throughout its network. These are comparatively insignificant gains compared with demands for negotiations between the country's white and black leaders, the suspension of the State of Emergency and the introduction of true democracy in South Africa.

Nevertheless, giving the black population greater economic power and continuing to chip away at racial discrimination constitute the only realistic agenda for genuine and lasting change in South Africa. They are likely to be far more effective than either pop music extravaganzas or the actions of American supporters of sanctions who would create a wasteland and call it peace.

THE CHURCH DIVIDED

As the Church of England approaches its latest synodical crisis over the ordination of women, the fog of ecclesiastical civil war is beginning to obscure and complicate the issues. New questions are arising while old ones have not yet been fully resolved and, as questions pile upon questions, the whole process could grind to a halt just because no one can take it all in.

The General Synod has to debate next month a thorough résumé of the fundamental theology behind the ordination of women. The document has been prepared by a committee of bishops, and the synod will have to discuss the complexities of the ecumenical dimension. It will then examine the shape of the legislation which would permit women priests and the terms of compensation to be offered to clergy who choose to resign rather than accept it.

The questions — "Whether?", "When?", "How?" and "What then?" — will all be discussed at more or less the same time. As a consequence, they are unlikely to be addressed separately or answered on their merits. Soon afterwards, the Lambeth Conference will explore yet another new topic to add to the confusion, concerning women bishops.

The Church would usefully clarify its mind if it were to accept that it must now choose between two alternatives, and cannot choose them both. It cannot ordain women to the priesthood and at the same time preserve the church's internal unity: one will have to be sacrificed as the price to be paid for the other.

It is the refusal so far to face that painful fact which has resulted in the accumulation of unresolved questions, some of which now rest upon a whole series of hypothetical assumptions. If it is right in principle to ordain women, and if it is right to do so now, and if it is right to allow individual bishops or parishes to opt out while remaining in office, is it then right to offer compensation to those who will

not accept that compromise? It looked for some time as if the first of these questions at least had been finally answered by the favourable decision of the General Synod in 1975; but the commissioning of a fresh report on the fundamental theological issues last year reopened even that issue. That report from the House of Bishops, now it is published, solves nothing.

The exercise was a monument to their faith in sweet reason, and to the belief that intelligent people sitting down round a table can, if they talk long enough, agree about everything. But, for all their patience and learning, the bishops for and against women priests are as far apart as ever. Although they have listened to each other more openly than before, neither side has gained any real ground.

What they have made clearer than before is how utterly irreconcilable they are, and why. To call such a report unanimous, as the bishops themselves are doing, is a particularly Anglican use of the word: Napoleon and Wellington were just as unanimous at Waterloo.

The General Synod should not be asked to grapple with four difficult things at once in an inevitably acrimonious atmosphere when the stakes are so high. It should insist on taking one issue at a time, settling it, and then moving to the next. But the synod's constitution allows it to make provisional decisions by simple majority, and then to proceed through all the processes of drafting and agreeing legislation before reaching a formal verdict by a two-thirds vote at the final stage, years later.

This merely postpones difficult choices as long as possible, while maximizing the pain, damage and confusion. That difficult choices are now inevitable is the one conclusion the synod can confidently draw from the bishops' report; the sooner they are faced the better.

THERE WAS AN OLD MAN...

It's nice still to have Mr Lear
In his death's centenary year
The Master of verse
Both comic and terse
That charms the English cloth ear.

Edward Lear, who died 100 years ago and who has just been admitted to the top table of Poets' Corner, represented a peculiarly English art form. In spite of its name, what he wrote was not strictly Nonsense Verse. It is a parody of sense, as seen through childish eyes.

At least since the Victorian revolution, the English have been embarrassed to show emotion. They have preferred to take their verse light and childlike, hanging on to nurse for fear of something worse.

Lear hit upon the line that took him to the Abbey by making up nonsense to entertain the children of his patron, the 13th Earl of Derby, while engaged in drawing his menagerie at Knowsley. In the same way, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson made up a story for the daughters of the Dean of Christ Church, and woke to find himself alarmingly famous for something other than mathematics.

Lear did not even invent the facetious jingle with which his name is indissolubly linked. The first examples of the limerick are found in *The History of Sixteen Wonderful Old Women and Anecdotes and Adventures of Fifteen Gentlemen* published when he was eight. The name comes from a Victorian party game, in which everybody in turn had to sing an extemporized nonsense-verse, after each of which the next victim was summoned up blushing with the chorus, "Will you come up to Limerick?"

Lear's limericks are inchoate, with the first and last lines ending with the same word. His illustrations of his Nonsenses are clichés of a skilled draughtsman, not much interested in humans, sound on animals and particularly birds, with people turning into cheerful harpies

with birds' legs and vestigial wings. What he was really good at was painting and drawing romantic foreign parts towards the eastern end of the Mediterranean.

And yet, and yet — under the childish Nonsense there is proper poetry as well as frivolity that suits the English distaste for emotion. The Jumbles off on their madcap jaunt are masking a poem of nostalgia and adventure in romantic foreign lands of a very Victorian sort. Beneath the linguistic fantasy and verbal inventiveness there is melancholy and elegiac loneliness that Housman would recognize. "The Yonky-Bongy-Bo" is a torch song of unrequited love. "There was an old man of Whitehaven/Who danced a quadrille with a raven/They said: 'It's absurd/To encourage this bird-/So they smashed that old man of Whitehaven.'" The mob does not like eccentricity or those who are not one of it.

"There was an old fellow of Bow/Whom nobody happened to know/So they gave him some soap/And said coldly: 'We hope/You will go back directly to Bow.'" Victorian values were snobbish about introductions, and put boundaries in their proper place — outside. "The Dong with a Luminous Nose" is another marvellous blues number of frustration and lost love.

Lear was a lonely man, an outsider and an epileptic. He had been persuaded that attacks were brought on by what Victorians described as the solitary vice, and his "lack of will power". Freudian exegetes have analysed the Pobble whose toes disappeared when the scarlet wrapper was taken away, as a sad echo of the threat made to small boys who indulged in such beastliness.

It is not necessary to dive so deep into textual analysis to agree that Edward Lear, as well as adding to the gaiety of nations, is a proper poet of a kind that is unique to England. He deserves his place with Shelley and Byron.

An invitation to visit Britain

From Mrs Moira Stramentov

Sir, I have been trying for half a year to invite my Russian sister-in-law to stay with us for a few weeks. If she ever comes it will be months hence, not because of difficulties from the Soviet authorities, as everyone presumes, but because of a politically and morally indefensible agreement the Foreign Office made with the Soviets a few years ago.

Before the agreement one invited a Soviet relative by sending an invitation, authenticated by a solicitor, to the relative in Russia who applied to the Soviets for an exit visa and then to the British Embassy for a visa. This took time, but not six months, and is still the practice of other countries.

Under the new agreement I had to apply to the Home Office in Croydon for a form. This took over a month to arrive. It demanded, besides the usual information, my "net monthly income and total expenditure on rent, rates, mortgage, credit repayments and other living expenses" with "evidence such as recent original bank statements and wage slips".

This information, the accompanying paper stressed, would be passed on to the Soviet authorities. Why the British should pass on such information about British subjects I cannot understand.

After a delay of several months the Home Office informed me that my relation would be granted a visa and sent a statutory declaration to be signed under oath and sent to the Foreign Office to be forwarded to the British Embassy in Moscow who would give it to my sister-in-law. This paper would enable her to apply to the Soviet authorities for permission to visit this country.

Six weeks later the Foreign Office had not forwarded the declaration as they had not received accompanying forms from the Home Office. I was told that the Home Office had run out of the forms. I felt I must be in Moscow.

As my sister-in-law has been promised a visa I presumed that this would be granted as soon as she received an exit visa from the Soviets. Instead the British Embassy will refer the application to the Home Office who will require confirmation from me that I still wish to invite her. This will take another six months.

She cannot believe the British are so bureaucratic and incompetent and believes we do not wish to see her.

Yours faithfully,
MOIRA STRAMENTOV,
Gurtington House,
Woodland,
Ashburton,
Devon.
June 1.

After 'Tumbledown'

From Mr Thomas R. Osborne

Sir, The screening of *Tumbledown* on BBC television and subsequent coverage of the controversy in the press has once again highlighted the totally inadequate facilities in this country for the rehabilitation of the brain injured.

Any member of a family with a brain-injured victim will immediately recognise the attitude of the professionals towards the patient and family as being far from fiction.

There are woefully few specialist rehabilitation units within the NHS and those that exist suffer from lack of proper resources.

In consequence the majority of the victims remain on orthopaedic wards, where they are regarded as disruptive to the ward routine and are eventually discharged from hospital to be cared for by a family who receive little if any support

Debt subsidy as brake on growth

From the Chairman of 3i Group plc

Sir, To attempt a comparison of 3i and KfW, as Sir Charles Villiers does (June 8) in order to draw a larger conclusion about the relative successes of the British and German economies is invidious. It also diverts attention from some fundamental issues in the relative economic and investment performance of the UK and Germany.

To dispose of the 3i/KfW question first. The purpose and roles of the two institutions are totally dissimilar and they can only properly be viewed in the context of the finance systems of which they are part.

3i is a highly specialised instrument of market substitution, providing long-term debt and equity capital for companies which, for whatever reason, have no access to the capital markets. KfW, on the other hand, is essentially a wholesale institution for raising and distributing credit, more centrally placed and fundamental to the whole German credit system.

The main point at issue, however, is how much debt an economy can sustain without excessive risk. Both the German and Japanese Governments have been successful in so controlling their own monetary affairs that acceptable and stable economic growth has been possible with minimal inflation.

Against such a background their respective corporate sectors have been able to accept levels of gearing which would have destroyed companies in more vol-

atile economies. Indeed, it is possible to argue that it is only the existence of our active equity market which in the earlier years allowed UK industry to survive and more recently made it possible to shed the expensive debt burden and prosper.

Sir Charles's implicit argument for interest subsidy would have carried real weight at a time when the UK Government was dominating the savings market to finance its own needs and was forced to raise interest rates to crippling levels in order to do so.

But today, when both the corporate and public sectors are liquid, Government is no longer hogging the debt market and the corporate sector has a free choice about how much debt to take on. For the first time in many years an investment boom is under way, financed as it always should be, by whatever combination of debt and equity is appropriate to the company.

In such a situation the interest cost is merely one element determining the proportion of capital expenditure to be financed from a company's equity resources as opposed to new credit. With corporate gearing now down to 5 per cent of total capital we are in an unprecedented era where financial orthodoxy (rather than the credit-driven German and Japanese systems) can work to optimise return on capital with minimal economic risk.

Yours truly,
JOHN CLUCKNEY, Chairman,
3i Group plc,
91 Waterloo Road, SE1.
June 9.

Jews in Lebanon

From the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews

Sir, Robert Fisk's moving report (June 10) on the sad plight of the tiny Jewish community in Lebanon coincides with an urgent plea that I have received from Mr Joseph Mizrahi, its acting head. Mr Mizrahi refers to the discussions which are taking place this week in London between HM Government and Iranian representatives. Whilst both sides claim that they are not negotiating about hostages, a solution to this problem could be a by-product of these talks.

We have urged Sir Geoffrey Howe to do whatever is possible to secure the release of the Lebanese Jewish hostages who are still alive and the return of the bodies of those whom the Iranian-controlled organisations may have executed.

For Great Britain to provide its good offices in this matter would be in the best humanitarian traditions of our country. Yours faithfully,
LIONEL KOPELOWITZ,
President,
Board of Deputies of British Jews,
Woburn House,
Tavistock Square, WC1.

and are totally unable to cope with the needs of the victim.

Yours sincerely,
THOMAS R. OSBORNE
(Chairman, Milton Keynes Headway Group, National Association for the Head Injured),
1 Cambridge Street,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

From Sir Donald Murray

Sir, Many people will welcome Mr Lowe's warm-hearted and dignified letter about his own injuries in World War II (June 7) and his praise for those who helped him.

But I suspect his dignity may have concealed another grievous issue: for if his injuries are roughly comparable to those suffered by Robert Lawrence, his disability pension is probably considerably less than the total pension Mr Lawrence receives. And he is elderly.

Yours faithfully,
D. F. MURRAY (Kent County Chairman, Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association),
Oxney House, Wittersham, Kent.

Watchdog reforms

From the Secretary of the Commission for Local Administration in England

Sir, The article by your Legal Affairs Correspondent (May 19) "Watchdog reforms sought", commenting on the report "Administrative Justice: Some Necessary Reforms", calls for correction.

Since May 24 this year a complainant has been able to choose whether to make his complaint direct to the local ombudsman, or ask a councillor to do so on his behalf. This change was included in the Local Government Act 1988 which received royal assent in March.

The article also quoted the report as stating that "of 160 reports issued by ombudsmen on March 31, 1986, 120 'ended in failure'". This is incorrect. In the 12 years between 1974 when the local ombudsman service began and March 31, 1986, the local ombudsmen issued 1,827 reports in which they found maladministration by an authority causing injustice to the complainant. In 103 of these cases, the authority did not agree to provide the remedy required by the local ombudsmen, so these cases could be said to have "ended in failure".

By March 31, 1988, the number of reports in which maladministration and injustice was found had increased to 2,258 and in 129 of these the authority failed to provide the remedy required by the local ombudsmen. Yours faithfully,
GORDON ADAMS, Secretary,
Commission for Local Administration in England,
21 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.
May 26.

Waiting time

From Mr Adrian Brodwin

Sir, I suggest that Mr Narindar Saroop (June 3) follows the excellent example set by the late Sir Thomas Beecham in standing on the table and clapping two plates together, after having been kept waiting at his table for some 20 minutes at London's Savoy Hotel. Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN BRODWIN,
93 Kingsley Way, N2.

Night out at the Opera House

From Mr John Holmes

Sir, So Jonathan Miller (Saturday, May 28) thinks that the first thing the Royal Opera House must do is to get rid of the audience in its present form. My wife and I are members of that audience. We pay for our own tickets and are very mindful that we can afford to do so only because of the subsidy.

Miller also speaks condescendingly of "uncomprehending Japanese" spending their expense accounts. Is he not aware of the developing appreciation of western music by the Japanese and that there are excellent Japanese singers and musicians? We have often sat behind groups of Japanese at Covent Garden and have seen them to be intensely interested and absorbed in what was being staged.

We also resent the implication that we are uneducated morons for not being fully aware of all the nuances of Italian, German and Russian opera sung in the original language. We welcome surtitles in their ability to provide one's memory and bring out the subtleties that can be missed if one is not word perfect in the libretto. Yours faithfully,
JOHN HOLMES,
13 Heathfield Park, NW2.
May 31.

Hungary today

From Miss Nora Beloff

Sir, In his dispatch from Budapest (May 25), Mr Richard Bassett defines the experience accumulated by the peoples of eastern Europe, particularly the Hungarians, pointing to the incompatibility between one party rule and an internationally competitive market economy.

Mr Bassett has not stopped to reflect on the security of a system which, having renounced the methods of the police state, nevertheless excludes from public life the majority of Hungary's educated classes who, almost certainly, are neither Marxist nor Leninist and therefore have no role in "socialist pluralism".

Mrs Thatcher and her ministers have always preferred to dodge the fundamental question of whether the free enterprise system, to which they are dedicated, can function within the framework of Soviet-type political institutions. Surely *The Times*, without the same political constraints, should be readier to confront reality?

Your leader (also May 23) fudges the issue. Admitting that "economic reform can go no further without impinging on the power and influence of the Communist Party", it ignores the evidence that Mr Grosz, like Mr Gorbachov, was elected into office by the party itself, not to demolish but to preserve its authority.

In this endeavour both need western sympathy and assistance. Mr Bassett's unconditional endorsement of Mr Grosz will be disappointing to our real friends in eastern Europe who are currently, and often at great risk to themselves, challenging party supremacy. Sincerely,
NORA BELOFF,
11 Belsize Road, NW6.

works from Beethoven's *Mass in C to Noye's Fludde*.

We have a close connection with the cathedral, whose leading trebles we share, and performed Mozart's *Mass in D* there on Ascension Day morning, as well as in two other city churches since.

This outward-looking approach can only have a revivifying effect on inner-city parishes, which are often hard-pressed to provide their own choirs, especially in the upper registers. We have also produced a record of our choral work in a local church, which has been well received, as showing what an all-through school can do. Yours sincerely,
JOHN HIGGINBOTHAM,
Head Master,
Leicester Grammar School,
Applegate, Leicester.
June 7.

All the elevens

From Mrs Thomas Lort-Phillips

Sir, Mrs Megroz Lord's letter (May 30) prompts me to highlight further evidence of the influence of the calendar on twin births. My father was born in May 1911. My twin brother and I were born on March 22, 1944, when my father was in his 33rd year. In due course, my wife (who is also a twin) and I had twin daughters ourselves. They were born on July 22, 1977. Now it is 1988, and I am 44, our daughters will be 11, and my father would have been 77, giving 33 years between generations.

What of the future? Yours faithfully,
THOMAS LORT-PHILLIPS,
Garron Farm,
Lawreney, Kilgilly, Dyfed.

From Mr Ian Oster
Sir, Mrs Patricia Young (June 7) may not have noticed, but even her address (143 Cranmer Court) is a multiple of 11! Yours faithfully,
IAN OSTER,
59 Brooklands Road,
Prestwich, Manchester.

From Mr William Essex
Sir, I could not resist counting the words in Mrs Young's letter today. All told (your title included), there were 66. Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM ESSEX,
30 Bramham Gardens, SW5.
June 7.

Choir losses

From the Head Master of Leicester Grammar School

Sir, Mr Andrew Fairbairn, who is the former Chief Education Officer for Leicestershire, has drawn attention in your columns (June 7) to the sad decline in choral singing in schools.

He himself should be aware of one contributory factor which has been at work in this county. The disastrous division between middle and upper schools, falling as it does at 14-plus, has in effect separated the boy trebles in one school from the tenors and basses in another.

Good choral singing flourishes best in an all-through school. Fortunately, we have pupils from 10-plus to 18-plus and have therefore in recent years been able to cover a wider range of choral

GCSE standards

From Mr D. C. Gaunt

Sir, Dr Shaw must not think that it is only in mathematics that standards have declined with the introduction of the GCSE.

Having marked GCE English Literature papers for 26 years, I was rather taken aback on seeing in the proposed syllabus for that subject in GCSE the substitution of the *Diary of Adrian Mole* for the works of Chaucer. Yours faithfully,
D. C. GAUNT,
Mynydd Dir,
Bryngwyn,
Newcastle Emlyn, Dyfed.
June 7.

Lateral thinking

From Dr M. J. Pucci

Sir, What is wrong with a fluorescent painted, single or double vertical line on the kerb edge, placed at regular intervals to designate a no parking area (letter, June 1)?

It would define the pavement/road edge, making it easier to see for both elderly pedestrians and motorists at night. The eyecore factor would be reduced and the excuse of parking on "snow-covered" lines would be less plausible. Yours faithfully,
M. J. PUCCI,
110 Ness Circle,
Elton, Aberdeenshire.

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL 1



On-tentacles: in the islands, everyone basks in the sun before lunch — even the main course

Branches all over the place

The curse of the Mediterranean is deforestation. From Plato to modern times, much has been said about the impact of cutting down the tree-cover on both the landscape and the climate. Plato's observations about the impoverishment of Attica due to deforestation and soil erosion apply with even greater force to the contemporary problems of both the Mediterranean and many parts of the developing world.

Given the perennial image of the Mediterranean landscape in summer — dry, barren and scrubby — Skópelos in the Sporades comes as a surprise. Significant tracts of the island are covered with dense pine forests which provide a vivid impression of what much of Greece must have looked like before Man stripped the trees away.

What is more surprising is that the island is relatively accessible. Now that it is possible to fly direct to Skiathos from the UK, the connection to Skópelos is by way of a half-hour hydrofoil ride, or an hour-and-a-half on a more traditional ferry. Moreover, from Skiathos you can make a day-trip to Athens by hydrofoil and bus.

The fact that history has largely passed Skópelos by, and the worst of the tourist boom has yet to arrive, produces a delightful combination. There is scattered evidence of the island's varied past which has come under the influence of a range of occupying cultures from Minoan and Mycenaean to Venetian and Turkish. But these are only an incidental factor in the charm of the island.



There are few trees in Greece, but Skópelos is an exception, finds W.J. Burroughs

The main town, Skópelos, is a bustling port with a large number of tavernas strung along the harbour offering all the delights of Greek cuisine. Most tourists stay in rooms or in hotels scattered throughout the island, but a few have chosen to live in the island's narrow-streeted town. The setting is ideal provided you are not averse to the Greek passion for all-night cacophony: local lads conducting TT races on mopeds, the occasional disco, early-morning construction work, cicadas, ill-programmed cockerels, and cat-fights.

The real attraction of Skópelos is the beaches. Do not be taken in by the claim that the local beaches are within walking distance from the town — they are distinctly scruffy. But a cheap bus or taxi ride along the one real road which runs up the south-western side of the island

provides access to a variety of secluded beaches.

The more adventurous can hire a moped or car to explore the truly isolated coves on the north-eastern side of the island, or venture further afield to the hillside village of Glossa above the tiny harbour of Loutraki. Alternatively, boat trips provide access to deserted beaches or day-long excursions right around the island.

While it is not strictly true to say Skópelos is unspoilt, it is relatively unspoilt. Moreover, there seems little impetus to develop the normal panoply of water-borne sports, apart from some desultory efforts to drum up business for water-skiing. So the beaches are largely dedicated to the more leisurely pursuits of swimming, snorkelling, and basking in the sun.

It may be purely coincidental, but on our first day it rained quite hard — not typical for late August. Perhaps Plato and subsequent climatologists were right about the trees. One thing is certain, the greenery and fertility of the island is a refreshing backdrop to a blissfully idle holiday.

TRAVEL NOTES

Holidays in Skópelos are available, at the family-run Pension Pantelis, from Freedom Holidays, 224 King Street, London W6 0RA (01-741 4471). Prices range for bed and breakfast from £219 for one week in May/June or October, to £279 in August; from £257 to £328 for two weeks. Flights leave Gatwick for Skiathos every Tuesday.

So sorry, Florence is closed

The scaffolding is up, the works of art locked away, but Hilary Finch still finds beauty to gasp at in the city of the Medicis

We had a room with a view all right, but a dense network of scaffolding obscured even the sky. Florence was in *restauro*. Like everyone else, I have been shut out of the Ca d'Oro in Venice; I have had barricades put up before my very eyes in the Louvre. But this onslaught of restoration was something else.

Cosimo de' Medici's Piazza della Signoria, with its vast open-air sculpture gallery, was being dug up to search for its Roman pavement; Giambologna's "Rape" and Cellini's "Perseus" were caged behind scaffolding of uniquely Florentine intricacy. In the church of Santa Maria del Carmine, students with profiles straight out of Pasolini were secretly recreating Masaccio behind thick green gauzes.

At Santa Maria Novella, the doors to the only cloisters not already taken over by the carabinieri training school were locked and bolted. When I finally climbed to the highest floor of the Pitti Palace, the last four rooms of the modern art gallery were plunged into darkness. The intense still-lives of Morandi had been stolen.

I was left off the hook. No longer coerced by culture in the city Dylan Thomas once referred to as a gruelling museum, I started walking along the Arno.

Before long I found myself drawn into a building busy with the fantastic inventions of 1,000 Emmett-like machines. It was the Museo di Storia della Scienza, a celebration of man's measurement of the heavens and the earth. Here were Galileo's telescopes, the Medici's collection of golden astrolabes, fan-like quadrants, and the "David" of science: the vast three-metre high-armillary sphere of Antonio Santucci, a 16th-century maze of gilded intersecting circles.

There were blown-glass thermometers, too, long and delicate as the fringes of a

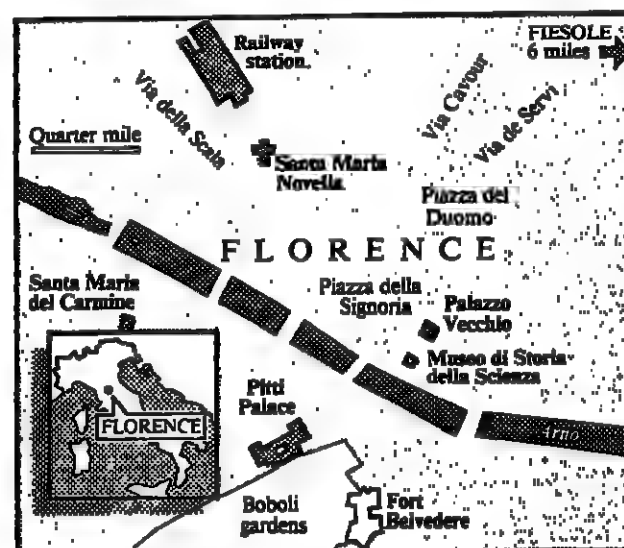
chandelier. They turned up again in the Profumo-Farmaceutica di Santa Maria Novella. Hidden behind a dark carved doorway, at No 16 Via della Scala, is a temple to pharmacy of such magnitude and solemn silence that it is difficult not to genuflect at the counter.

From 1221, when the Dominicans first set foot in Florence, herbs grown in the church's cloister garden have been collected and processed in secret recipes still used today by the proprietor, Signora Stefani. Portraits of her ancestors line the walls of the 16th-century laboratory; gold and cobalt stucco decorates the old pharmacy; and the storeroom is hallowed by 14th-century frescoes. Each room has its own strangely indefinable aroma of elixirs, tinctures and alchemy.

A sense of duty eventually directs one to Brunelleschi's *Duomo* and Giotto's *Campanile*. Both are entirely impossible to ignore and equally impossible to see. They were built on such low-lying ground that they perversely sink from view down every narrow street, only to tower so high in close proximity that the head reels at their dizzy mosaic geometry. They were made for gods, not humans; to view and to find their proper vantage point, mere mortals must cross the Arno and clamber up to the justly named Forte di Belvedere.



Life without the scaffolding: the Piazza della Signoria before archaeologists came to dig it up



Solitude: the Boboli gardens

Cecconi's "Fratelli nella nebbia", four cream-clad friars leaning against a swirling white fog, are among wonders to be viewed in a series of light airy rooms with a view on to the Boboli gardens.

The other great viewpoint, of course, is Fiesole. I took a number 7 bus and rested my eyes on the bare stone of its Romanesque cathedral, the greens of its cypress, cedar and olive hills, the semi-circle of its Roman theatre. The Etruscans, who founded Fiesole, formed their tiny springing bronze figurines before being sent packing by Julius Caesar.

Fiesole may rest the eye and mind, but the Florentines

and the darkest green virgin olive oil in town. There's couscous, for a change, at the Cuscusu kosher restaurant next to the splendid green-domed synagogue; there are oven-baked glazed pears for pudding; and, in the Caffè Rivoletti opposite the Palazzo Vecchio, the hottest hot chocolate in all Italy.

TRAVEL NOTES

Città offers three, five and seven-night stays throughout the year, at a wide range of hotels, from £161-£342 for flight, transfers, b and b. The medium-priced Hotel Rivoletti costs about £300 per person each for five nights.

Ring Città on 01-688 5533 for latest information. Reading: *Florence: A Travellers' Companion* edited by Harold Acton (Constable, £5.95). *Italian Hours* by Henry James (Hutchinson Century Travellers, £5.95).

Safer kids' stuff?

Stricter safety standards are needed for children's activity holidays, the Consumers' Association has told the Department of Health and Social Security. Responding to a DHSS consultation document on activity holiday centres, the association calls on the Government to take a tough line on safety at both day care and residential centres offering activity holidays to all children under 16.

Obligatory registration with, and inspection by, the local authority, and a compulsory code of practice governing minimum health and safety standards, should not be seen as "unnecessary interference", says the association. In a letter to the DHSS the Consumers' Association says: "In order for parents to fulfil their responsibilities they need some reassurance that such schemes [activity holiday centres] are subject to some official involvement, particularly in matters of safety."

It is two years since *Which?*



Active ingredient: children the association's magazine, reported for the second time on shortcomings found by its inspectors at activity holiday centres. Complaints ranged from inadequate fire precautions in dormitories to sailing expeditions without life-jackets, and preventable accidents involving mini-motor cycles. The association argues that adequate supervision is important for teenagers taking

part in activity holidays as it is for younger children, and that registration should be obligatory whatever age-group a centre caters for. It says that DHSS concern that more stringent rules could prove costly for local authorities is unjustified. "We realize that there would be resource implications for local authorities but we can see no reason why a charge should not be made for registration with the local authority," says the CA letter, "particularly as parents generally have to pay for their children to take part in these activities."

Regulations which gave parents confidence in adventure holidays would be welcome, says Andrew Colin, chairman of Dolphin and Tops Holidays, which take 45,000 children a year on activity holidays. "As long as regulations are not unrealistically expensive they would positively help the industry," he says.

S.C.P.

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TRAVEL 2

Fighting like devils on horseback

Swamps and pirates were all in a day's work to Lawrence and Lorne Blair, who spent ten years in the islands of Indonesia. Shona Crawford Poole hears their story

For how much longer will the warriors of western Sumba be allowed to treat with their gods in furious annual cavalry battle on the one day a year when red sea worms wash up on the island's beaches? It is one of many such questions raised by the films of Lorne and Lawrence Blair, who spent ten years exploring the islands of the eastern seas.

Those who watched the first episode of their television series, *Ring of Fire*, on BBC1 last Monday have already met the brothers. Lorne, monocled when not behind the film camera, and Lawrence, psycho-anthropologist, writer, sometime sound-man and stills photographer, explored the volcanic Indonesian archipelago in search of vanishing customs, and seldom seen species.

They voyaged in the black-sailed schooners of the piratical Bugis traders of Sulawesi (Celebes that was), and searched for a lost tribe in Kalimantan (formerly Borneo). In the swamps of Irian Jaya (formerly New Guinea) they stalked up with cannibals, and on Sumba they dabbled with the remnants of human sacrifice of another sort.

It was in Sumba that they filmed the Pasola rite, which Lawrence described as "an annual war sport in which two teams of several hundred mounted warriors charge each other at full gallop, hurling javelins at close range with intent to kill. The spectators, by being as legitimate a target as the warriors themselves, are really participants."

The purpose of the Pasola is to assist the gods in maintaining harmony between the upper and lower worlds, and though death is no longer necessary to its success, blood must be drawn. Its participants ride Saddlewood horses, once the prized heat-resistant mounts of many a British cavalry regiment in India and South Africa.



The princess and the people: a Toraja princess looks down from her richly carved house on Sulawesi (Celebes), while (right) Sumba islanders offer themselves to the gods in the Pasola rite of human sacrifice



Game for a laugh: above, storyteller Hilo of central Borneo; right, Lorne Blair undressed to photograph cannibals of Irian Jaya (New Guinea)

After filming in the thick of it, Lawrence wrote: "This was a true medieval pageant, and for the first time in my life, amongst the noise and blood and horse-sweat, I sensed something of those past centuries of warfare in which our own ancestors had fought on horseback to establish the nation frontiers of Europe."

On Sulawesi it was the last rites of the last king of the Toraja star children that claimed the attention of the Blairs, and of the Toraja princess leaning out of the

window. The Torajas believe that before the dawn of human memory their ancestors descended in skyships from the star group Pleiades. They say that the ark-like form of their houses is like the skyships, and their funeral rites launch the souls of the dead back to the stars.

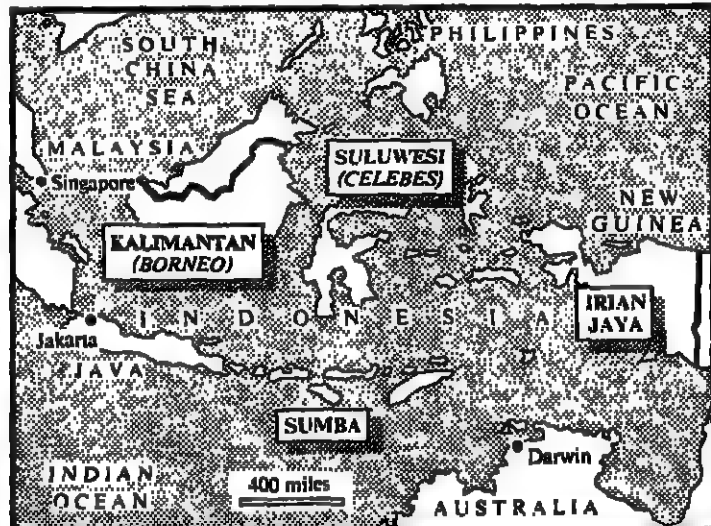
In Borneo, where they had gone in search of a lost tribe of Punan Dyaks, the Blairs found their quarry and had their leg pulled by the village storyteller. He broke up when he heard his own tape-

recorded voice for the first time. It wasn't just the novelty that entertained him, he had realized that the Blairs understood that he'd been entertaining the village with scurrilous stories about them.

Even the Bugis pirates, who gave us the term *boogie-man*, have boogie-men of their own. These are the cannibal Asmat tribesmen who live in the swamps that edge the Arafura Sea off south west Irian Jaya: the last people on earth most of us could be persuaded to undress for.

TRAVEL NOTES

Bali is the Indonesian island most often visited by holidaymakers. Because it is centrally placed it is the hub of inter-island air and sea transport. Indonesia's national airline Garuda (01-486 3011) flies from London to Bali three times a week. It refers potential passengers to ticket agents, and the cheapest fare I have come across is £537 economy return from Indonesian Express (01-491 4489). Indonesia no longer has a tourist



office in Britain, but the travel agency and tour operator Indonesian Express acts unofficially in that capacity. The company's *Just Indonesia* brochure sets out a variety of tours to many of the islands mentioned in *Ring of Fire*, and it can make arrangements to visit most parts of the country. Official permits are required to visit some areas of special interest to naturalists. A seven-day houseboat trip to visit the Dyak tribes on the Mahakam River of Kalimantan costs from £378. Expect to add about £800 for

transport to Borneo from London. Lawrence Blair will be a guest lecturer on an expedition cruise visiting Sumba and other islands in October. The cruise is run by Quark Expeditions, costs from US\$3,850 per person, and can be booked through Salen Lindblad Cruising in New York (212-761 2300).

A book, also called *Ring of Fire*, by Lawrence Blair with Lorne Blair, from which these pictures were taken, is published by Bantam Press, £14.95.

TRAVEL NEWS

Rising rooms

Hotel prices in Britain have risen 10 per cent in the past year. According to a new survey the biggest price rises were in hotels which had spent most on refurbishment. London's Hyatt Carlton was the most expensive hotel in the survey, charging £216.50 a night for bed and breakfast for one. Three-star hotels in Wales registered the lowest price rises (7.59 per cent on average), and four-star hotels in Stratford-upon-Avon the highest (16.46 per cent). The research was conducted by Expedia for the magazine *Caterer and Hotelkeeper*.

Indian style

Individual tours of India are featured in *Cox & Kings* ravishingly illustrated new catalogue. *Chauffeur-driven cars* replace the coaches of the group tour and there is a guide at every destination. A 12-day train journey on the Palace on Wheels through Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, and a 19-day tour of Southern India, both at £1,775, exclusive of food.

Another innovation, on the full board group tours, is a choice of meals from the à la carte menus of the hotels and restaurants featured. (*Cox & Kings*, 01-931 9106.)

• "Burglars Don't Take Holidays" is the slogan for a service offering portable burglar alarms for hire through travel agents. Fears of a break-in at home rate high among holiday worries. The movement-activated alarms cost £2.30 a day, or £86.25 to buy outright from travel agents. The service is run by Smith & Handy (01-200 9163).

Drive line

Topical motoring and leisure information on nearly 300 subjects is available to the public through the Automobile Association's new telephone service, called AA Directory. Copies of a free pamphlet listing the 290 direct line telephone numbers are being circulated to homes throughout the country. For the price of a premium rate call - 35p a minute at peak times - motorists can listen to the latest national and regional road traffic news. The association is also offering country-by-country guides to driving abroad, ideas for days out for families, and Egon Ronay-recommended restaurants and AA-recommended hotels.

Lower leaving

Australia is halving the departure tax on all passengers leaving the country after July 1. The immigration clearance fee is also being abolished. Departing passengers will pay £4.50 instead of the £11 previously levied. "Negative comments" are given as one reason for the change.

Island bonus

Desroches Island in the Amirantes, an outlying group in the Seychelles archipelago, is to be opened to visitors. Air Seychelles will be flying the 130-mile trip from Mahé three times a week. Accommodation at the Desroches Island Lodge is in 20 twin-bedded bungalows. The Seychelles Tourist Office (01-439 9699) has details.

• With the publication of Map 985, covering Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and the Faroe Isles, Michelin has now completed its main road series of Western Europe. The 1:1,500,000 scale map, entitled *Scandinavia and Finland*, costs £2.25.

Ski schooling

Learn-to-ski weeks for beginners can be a ruse to full beds on quiet weeks, which makes *Go Ski's* season-long courses at L'Etal, a satellite of La

Clusaz, France, a useful addition to the ski scene. An extra £69 on top of the holiday package price buys boot, ski and pole hire, ski school, lift pass, a skiing test, and a company sweatshirt (*Go Ski*, 0293 517733).

• Long weekends on the Côte d'Azur for £119 cannot be had. Euro Express (0444 440566) has three-night holidays in Nice based on bed and breakfast in central hotels, with flights from Gatwick, available at that price departing on June 16 and 23.

TRAVEL BOOKS

The most irritating travel books are guides which gush or lecture. *Cuba Official Guide* by Andrew Gravette (Macmillan Caribbean, £10.95) is a gusher. Its redeeming features are that it is extensive and generously illustrated.

• With *Lakeland Towns and Villages* (Forster Davies, £4.95), Hunter Davies aspires to do for the little towns what Wainwright did for the big fells. As he says, Lakeland's 13 million visitors a year base themselves in the towns and villages so they need an expert eye to guide them to the prettiest villages, the best town walks, the finest architecture and good pubs and restaurants.

S.C.P.

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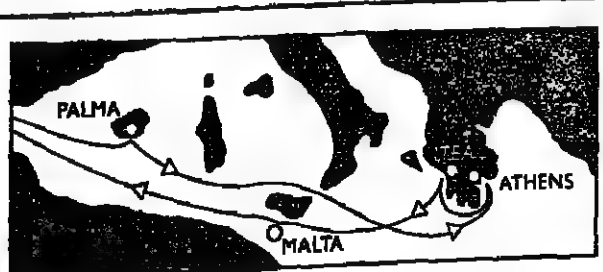
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Judy Froshaug



Byron, born exactly 200 years ago, inherited Newstead via his father, Mad Jack, son of Foul Weather Jack, who had inherited from the Wicket Lord, aka Devil Byron. The poet — "mad, bad and dangerous to know" had a lot to live up to, rather little to

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 and died at Newbyrd Nov. 15th 1808.

Epitaph for a pet: the words Byron had inscribed on his dog's tomb

Newstead Abbey, Linby,
Nottinghamshire (0623 793557) is open
daily, 11.30am-6pm, until September
30. The grounds are open all year
round. Admission to house £1.20,
OAPs 40p, children 20p. Admission to
grounds 85p, children 40p.

Topiary is back in fashion, and peacocks are busy bursting into leaf, Francesca Greenoak reports

Hedging one's bets: formal topiary suits even a small garden very well, and is easily managed

trees such as holly and laurel which need to be cut with secateurs so as not to damage the leaves.

Geraldine Lacey's well-illustrated practical book, *Creating Topiary*, is published by the Garden Art Press (14.95), and this and a leaflet of frames and prices is available from Carriers Oast Northiam, Rye, East Sussex TN31 6NH (please enclose stamp).

NICHOLSON

**LONDON
DOCKLANDS
STREET ATLAS
& GUIDE**

NEW EDITION

To anyone who comes from the other end of the District Line, the guide is a reminder of just how much London's centre of gravity is being yanked to the right by the Dockland developments; after a few hours of letting your fingers do the walking through these pages, from St Katherine's Dock to Gallions Point, such things as Tower Bridge, the Bank and the City

The book is justifiably hard on speculators who came in to make an early killing on soaring land prices, but apart from that points few accusing fingers. It recognizes, as cartographers must, that working landscapes respond vividly, for better or worse, to imperatives from beyond their boundaries. Just as dereliction was a direct result of container handling and the shift of trade to Tilbury, so the current explosion cannot be seen entirely in isolation from the Bang upriver. The hard thing is one which Nicholson pulls off is to freeze the scene, however fleetingly, of a place in flux between the poles of nostalgia and venturism.

Alan Franks

From Old Swan Wharf, go up stairs on to London Bridge to see South-west Cathedral and Fishmongers' Hall, then down to the path by St Magnus-the-Martyr, which led to Old London Bridge from 1176 to 1832.

The 1840 RIVER

Billingsgate building is all that remains of the 1,000-year-old fish market, next door to the Custom House. The Saxon-founded St Dunstons-in-the-East is now a public garden in the bombed ruins of a Victorian church with a Wren spire. Take the St Mary at Hill church cloisters and Lovat Lane to get to Pudding Lane, where the Great Fire started, and the Monument that commemorates it, close to Monument station.

Fran Hazelton

WEEKEND TIPS

- H**oe in dry weather to dispose of weed seedlings effectively. If you are not sure if they will be heavy-laden, remove young plantlets, leaving one fruit for every 3in of wood.
- C**heck ticks on young trees planted last winter and loosen them if necessary. If using a large tree, use a Vaseline tree as a allow for adjustment.
- W**atch out for cabbage white butterflies; wipe eggs from the underside of brassica leaves and remove caterpillars as early as possible, locating them by small bites.
- C**ut back side shoots of currants and gooseberries to 4 leaves.
- M**ake sure all houseplants which need it are repotted. Feed indoor plants with a liquid feed about once every ten days.
- T**ake softwood cuttings from various types of herbs and shrubs such as southernwood, elders, box, deciduous viburnums.
- C**lear beds of vegetables which have finished cropping and prepare beds for new seeds and seedlings.

area, clip in spring. Hand pruned trees or electric ones can be sheared, except on large-leaved trees such as holly and laurel which need to be cut with secateurs so as not to damage the leaves.

Geraldine Lacey's well-illustrated practical book *Creating Topiary*, is published by the Garden Art Press (£4.95), and this and a leaflet of frames and prices is available from Carriers Oast, Northiam, Rye, East Sussex TN31 6NH (please enclose stamp).

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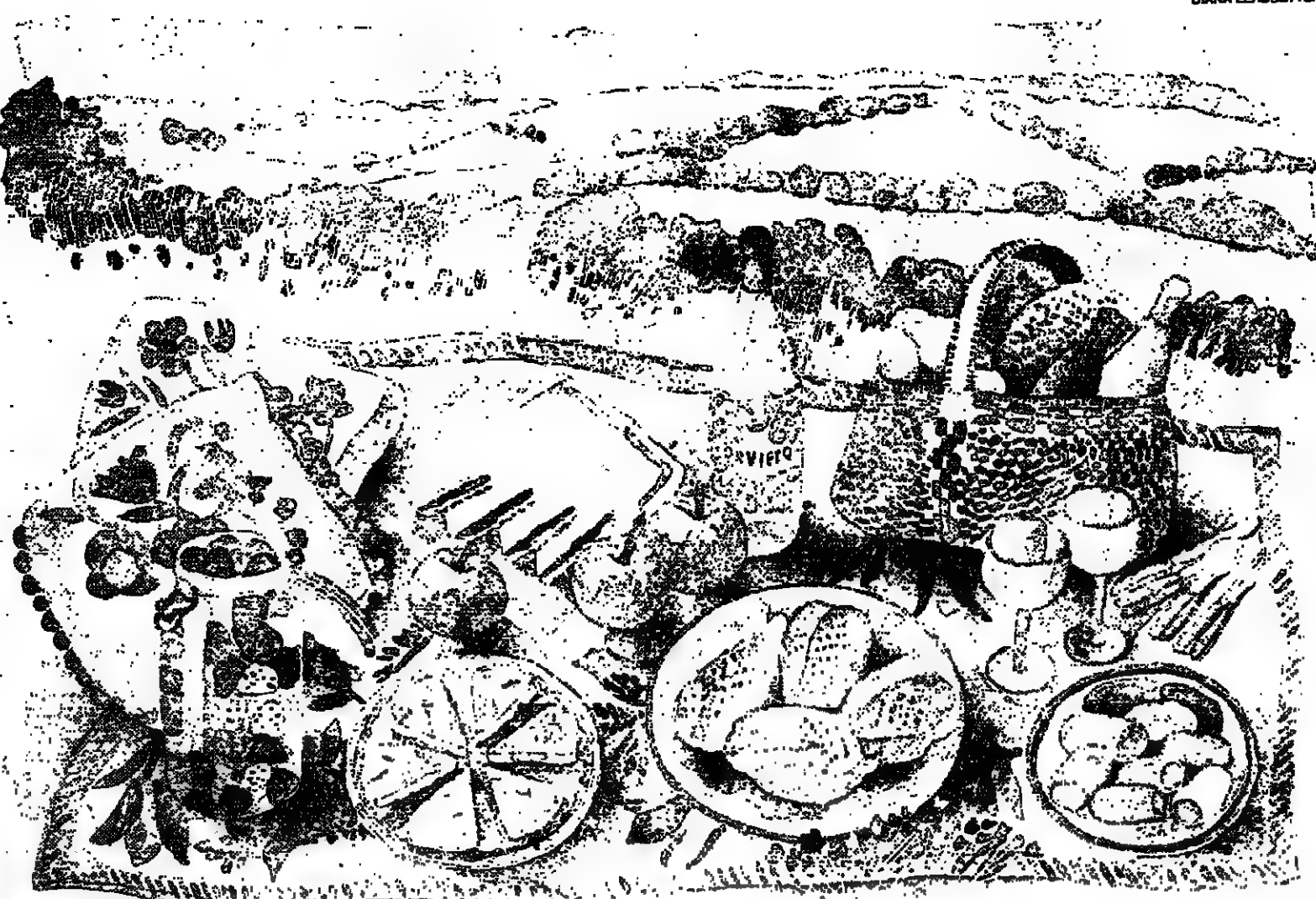
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THE TIMES COOK

DIANA LEADBETTER



Hampered progress - the art of the picnic

The best picnics are the impromptu ones. On those rare occasions when weather, company and inclination coincide, you will almost certainly be able to come up with the right sort of food and wine, even if it's only a basket of fruit, some good cheese left over from last night's dinner party and the remains of the roast lamb you served. It will still taste wonderful in these perfect circumstances.

Sometimes, however, you cannot leave it to chance and more forethought is required. Is it to be an elaborate or a simple picnic? Do you need cutlery, tablecloth and plates, or will fingers do it? Whatever you do, keep to crisp, fresh flavours and textures. Whether sweet, savoury or fruity, choose the direct rather than the subtle approach. Anything chocolatey, melt-in-the-mouth, sticky or crumbly should be avoided. Food needs to be robust to stand up to the rigours of transport. The Cornish pasty was invented with this in mind - thus anything in a pastry case is a good idea, like the bacon and egg pie I wrote about a couple of weeks ago. A stuffed, roasted joint of meat such as a loin of pork which, when cool, is sliced and put back together again before being tightly wrapped in foil is a good centre piece for a picnic. Small stuffed roasted birds are delicious, quails or pousins, or even squab if you can get them.

I love mayonnaise, particularly with new potatoes, but it does not travel well and leaks and separates. A good alternative to potato salad is small mushroom sandwiches, which act as a perfect foil for a meat dish. If you want to take greens, pack a bag of crudités or salad leaves, but carry the dressing separately. Pour it into a bowl, dip the salad in it, and eat with the fingers. Other good finger foods are thick wedges of Spanish omelette, Parma ham wrapped around fingers of melon or good firm cheese, home-made Scotch eggs using quail eggs, and cold barbecued chicken wings which are cheap as well as being the most delicious part of the bird, especially when cold.

If you want something more elaborate

Crisp, fresh and robust foods are the key to that rarest of treats for the British, the picnic. Frances Bissell unpacks some ideas

rate than a basket of fruit and some cheese at the end, put some fresh, prepared fruit in a Kilner jar together with about 1/4pt/140ml syrup flavoured with orange and lemon juice as well as a spot of brandy. Seal the jar and once you're ready to serve the fruit, fill up with a suitable wine, re-seal, turn it over a couple of times to blend the flavours, then open the jar and eat the fruit with long forks and "dipping biscuits", or serve in glass bowls if the picnic is a grand affair. Try strawberries with Chignon, raspberries with Beaujolais, peaches with sparkling Sauternes or even champagne, or apricots with Moscato d'Asti. To accompany the picnic, choose a wine that will give you and your guests pleasure, not one that is cheap and "good enough for outdoors". Eating outside in Britain is a rare treat, and it should always be a memorable one.

Mushroom sandwiches
Serves 4
1/2lb/230g field mushrooms
1 tablespoon olive oil
2 shallots, finely chopped
salt
freshly ground black pepper
3oz/85g butter, softened
garnish: flat-leaved parsley

Wipe and, if necessary, peel the field mushrooms, then slice them. Fry them in the olive oil with the chopped shallots until soft, raising the heat to evaporate the liquid which exudes in quantity from mushrooms. Season to taste and allow to cool, then mash together with the butter.

Remove the crusts from the bread and make sandwiches with the mushroom filling. Cut the sandwiches into neat triangles or fingers.

Spanish omelette
Serves 4
1 small onion
2 tablespoons olive oil

1/2lb/110g cooked potatoes, diced
1/2lb/110g cooked spinach, squeezed, dried and chopped
8 size 3 eggs
salt
freshly ground black pepper

Peel the onion and slice very thinly. Heat the olive oil in a heavy deep frying pan, about 8 or 9in (20.5 or 23cm) in diameter, and fry the onion until golden brown. Add the potatoes and spinach, and distribute the vegetables evenly over the base of the frying pan. Lightly beat the eggs. Raise the heat, and pour the eggs over the vegetables. Season lightly with salt and freshly ground black pepper.

When the omelette is well set all the way through, invert a large plate over the frying pan, tip the frying pan upside down and the omelette will fall out, cooked side uppermost. Place the pan back on the heat, adding a little more oil if necessary, and when hot, slide the omelette back in to cook the underside. When fully cooked, turn out on a plate and allow to cool. To serve, cut into wedges.

Roast pousin
Per person you need:
1 12oz/340g pousin
1 clove garlic
1in/2cm piece fresh ginger if possible
1 tablespoon soy sauce
freshly ground black pepper
pinch ground cinnamon or five-spice powder
a little sesame oil mixed with sunflower oil

Trim any loose fat and skin from the pousin, and chop off the wing tips. Peel and slice the garlic and ginger very thinly and cut into small slivers. Insert these under the skin of the

pousin, particularly over the breast and thighs. Rub all over with soy sauce, sprinkle with pepper and spice and marinate for an hour before cooking. For each bird, take a piece of foil large enough to wrap it completely, and brush it all over with the oil. Place the pousin in the centre and wrap it carefully with the foil on top. This is important to keep the cooking juices in which will, when cold, turn into a delicious jelly. Place the wrapped pousin on a baking tray and roast in the top half of a hot oven, gas mark 6, 200 C/400 F for 35 minutes. Remove from the oven and allow to go cold. There is no need to unwrap the chicken until required, when each person can unwrap their own.

The next recipe is taken from Claudia Roden's book *Picnic* (Penguin, £4.95). It is worth making plenty of the almond fingers, some for the picnic to dip into the fruit and syrup and some for back home with hot coffee after a day out.

Almond fingers
Makes 48
1/2lb/230g (12 sheets) filo pastry
1/2lb/110g ground almonds
2oz/60g granulated sugar
1 good tablespoon rosewater or orange flower water
3 1/2oz/100g unsalted butter
icing sugar

Preheat the oven to gas mark 4, 180°C, 350°F. Cut each sheet of filo pastry into four strips of equal width and pile them together to stop the fragile pastry from drying out. Mix the ground almonds and sugar together with the rosewater or orange flower water. Melt the butter and use some of it to brush the top strip of filo. Put a heaped teaspoon of the almond mixture at one end and roll up into a cigar shape. When you have rolled it halfway, fold the longer sides in to enclose the filling and continue rolling. Place on a buttered baking sheet and brush with melted butter. Prepare the rest in the same way.

Bake in the preheated oven for about 20 minutes or until lightly golden. When cold, sprinkle with icing sugar. They will keep for several days in an airtight tin.

Jonathan Meades takes a secret weapon along to a place in town that succeeds in rising to the occasion

Apart from the price the only problem with Sunday lunch at Le Soufflé in the Inter-continental Hotel at Hyde Park Corner is that it turns out to be brunch, something that the voice that took my booking did not mention. Maybe the voice assumed that anyone who booked for that meal must know its nature; maybe it feared that anyone who didn't know would cry off if told - for brunch is, along with religious observance, closed retailers and slothfulness, one of the things that makes Sundays so dismal.

Still, Le Soufflé's idea of brunch is, thankfully, far from the common run of warmed-over mid-Atlantic dishes washed down with debilitating litres of Bloody Mary. If you're so minded you can just about get a meal of that sort there, but you're more likely to eat quite interesting stuff, which hints at how fine a restaurant it must be in normal circumstances.

The hotel foyer is a period piece of the early Seventies - a hangar with expensive finishes, brown glass lights modelled on wasps' nests, an obtrusive Hertz concession, and 18th-century French tapestries to lead a hunk of time. The restaurant, in which I've previously eaten when the fairly celebrated Aquitaine chef Michel Trémeau was doing a "guest" stint, used to be done out in another style of the same period, repro-Odeon. It wasn't exactly a pretty sight but it was, after a decade and a half, a fascinating one. I guess the hotel has done right to get rid of it: after all, no one really wants to eat inside the decorative equivalent of a platform-soled boot, does he? But one day we're going to rue the loss of the interior marked by the crasse vulgarity of those years; they're disappearing fast, and someone must form a Seventies Society to fight for them on architectural-historical, if not aesthetic, grounds.

What has replaced the chrome exuberance and the carpets up the wall is late-Eighties good taste. The walls are hung with unvarnished wooden display cases containing shards of fabric or marble eggs wrapped in tissue paper. Here and there small bold pots with artificial camellias, wonderful samples of the florist's craft. The room, which has no windows, is lit by lights so zealously concealed that you begin to wonder if lights are reckoned indecent, the way chair legs once were. By the turn of the century it will, of course, appear as much of a period piece as its predecessor, whose traces are now manifest only in the clothes of its, presumably, long-time and loyal clients. The majority of them favour the effortlessly casual Marbella look familiar from tabloid exposés of "company directors" who've never ever heard of Brinks Mat, natch, and who years to return to Blighty for a good old knees-up and a pint of wally.

EATING OUT

Sundays with the Marbella set

FRANCIS MOSLEY

The President of the Seventies Society dining in his favourite restaurant.



They'd find that the damage has shot up something shocking. Criminal, really, what this gaff wants to see for a glass of champagne - £5.60 - and even more diabolical what it wants to see for a glass of kir royale - £5.90. That's the price of four whole bottles of Fundador. Still, it keeps out the riff-raff. These punters accord ill, not only with the new décor which is supposed to make guests of us all, but with the unfussy congeniality of the staff, who are professional and friendly but not professionally friendly. Admittedly I had my secret

'I must declare that my idea of a cheese soufflé is out of Welsh Rarebit by Aero'

weapon in tow - my baby daughter, who was brought a high chair and a smoked salmon omelette, and was cooed at and doted on not least by three musicians - guitar, violin, accordion - whose like I last saw in the Alceon Hotel, Prague.

The dish that this restaurant is named after is available at Sunday brunch in just one version. This was no ordinary cheese soufflé, however. It was pretty subtle or, according to taste, hopelessly underflavoured - I must own to a base taste in such things, and declare that my idea of a cheese soufflé is out of Welsh Rarebit by Aero. This was not that. Further it was full of walnuts like broken teeth, and beyond that it had poured into it a "compote" of pears, cinnamon and shallots. The other starter was smoked salmon with what was billed as "crisp potato pancakes" - these were fine, though they had little to do with either galettes or latkes and were, simply, compressed, deep-fried shreds of the tuber - there was no contrast between the exterior and the centre.

Roast beef comes from a hemisphere on wheels and, as I never tire of saying, was braised beef, steamed in its own heat. But fine braised beef, and generously cut as one thick rib; the Yorkshire pudding was a decent lump of that batter and the horseradish sauce was the kind that blazes the nasal membranes. One dish stood out notably: this was real steak with real kidney in a fiery grain-mustard sauce. It was served with noodles which all tasted the same despite being red and green and cream, and with a saute of mushrooms.

The cheese trolley is a serious-looking affair whose wares include the very smelly Picardy soft cheese called Rollot which is some relation of Maroilles and of Reblochon. The bread that goes with it is herby and pretty good. The sweet trolley is fructuous, lactic, on the gross side; its chocolate mousses are sensationally light though maybe too sweet - which accusation cannot be made of the chocs and truffes which come with the coffee. These are bitter, possessed of a great depth of flavour.

The mark-up on a bottle of Crémant d'Alsace was hardly friendly and brought it to £19 - with the exception of a Sauternes fizzy at £17, this was the cheapest sparkling wine on offer. Drinkable non-pétilant wines are similarly priced. The bill for two, with nothing in addition to what I've mentioned, was £80: with a £10 tip - they did have to cope with the babe as well as make eyes at her - the meal cost £90. I daresay that this was the cheapest spend per head in the restaurant that day.

Le Soufflé, Inter-continental Hotel, 1 Hamilton Place, London W1 (01-409 3131). Brunch 12.30-3pm Sun, otherwise open every day 12.30-3pm and 7-11.30pm. Closed Sat lunch.

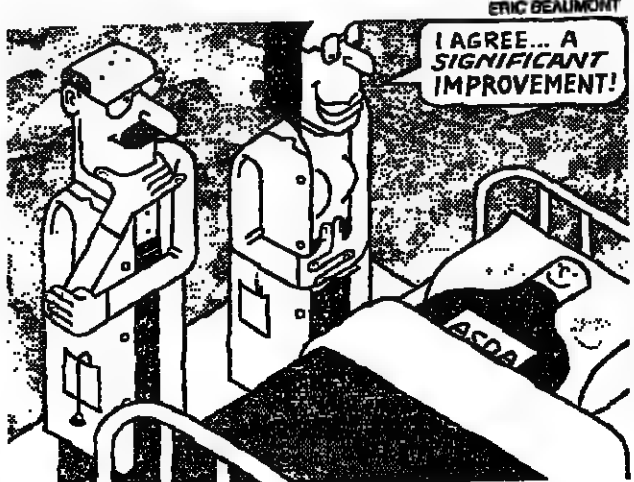
DRINK

North wind blows in the superstore wars

Asda has recovered from a rocky wine-buying start to offer a serious challenge in the south, Jane MacQuitty reports

After an appalling Asda tasting three years ago, introducing their first grim collection of own-label wines, I was convinced that this predominantly northern-based chain of 120 supermarkets would never threaten southern wine-buying expertise. Since then Antonia Hadfield, its 31-year-old senior wine buyer who trained at Sainsbury's, and her small Leeds-based team have been quietly upgrading Asda's range.

A pleasant own-label champagne plus the best, most refreshing Crémant de Bourgogne on the market, again own-label, were encouraging signs for Asda-haters such as myself; but what finally persuaded me that Asda was worth a second opinion was the introduction 18 months ago of a fine wine range that now accounts for more than 5 per cent of Asda's total wine sales.



not ship any wines direct but relied entirely on UK agents to ship, stock and store its wines. Choice was severely restricted and technical control, together with the control of each wine's exact blend, was in someone else's hands. Today Asda ships all its wines direct.

Asda is worth watching because it is determined to challenge major competitors in the south such as Sainsbury and Tesco. Centres such as Brighton, Bristol, Slough and Taunton have Asda stores, as do the London areas of Colindale, Park Royal and the Isle of Dogs.

Hadfield has taken the bold and so far unique step - one that I suggested to supermarketers years ago - of offering free in-store wine tastings to Asda customers with an assistant on hand to provide useful background information and helpful serving suggestions. The results have been impressive, and Hadfield finds these in-store tastings essential when introducing new wines to the Asda range.

With the summer season in full swing Asda's sparkling wines are worth looking at: I'm still very fond of the '85 Asda Crémant de Bourgogne, still a 100 per cent Chardonnay-based sparkler from the Cave de Vire situated south of Macon, but now a crisper and more lemony blend, and excellent value priced at £4.99 a bottle. Asda's own champagne from the large Epernay-based firm of Charbaug, priced at £7.99, is also worth considering and is currently a fresh waxy palatable blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Asda's non-vintage Pinot Blanc from the Eguisheim co-operative in Alsace is actually from the '86 vintage, and with its gentle apple blossom scent and soft apple palate makes another good summer aperitif.

Asda's red wines, excluding their fine wine range, are slightly less impressive than their whites. But Asda's '85 Chianti Classico with its stylish Roman-urn label, a classic light morello cherry fruit and slightly bitter finish bought from the House of Ricassoli, was excellent (£2.65). Also look out for Asda's fine perfumed Australian Cabernet Sauvignon-Shiraz, whose tea-leaf-like scent and pleasant spicy juicy-fruit palate is a bargain at £2.35. Splash out £1.64 more and you can bring home a bottle of Berri Estates '83 Cabernet Sauvignon-Shiraz, a much finer wine whose deep purple black colour and delicious spicy red and black fruits palate is well worth the £3.99 asked for it. Even more of a blockbuster is Asda's Californian classic Petite Sirah, whose strong minty loganberry-like palate is again a good buy priced at £2.99.

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THE ARTS

Suffer the children

TELEVISION

Beaten up in South Africa on Wednesday, sold into prostitution in Thailand on Thursday: this has not been the brightest week for children on television. Last night's bucket of woe came from Coventry, England, where the sexual abuse figures are mushrooming.

How far this increase may be attributed to the accelerating zeal of the concerned agencies is — in parallel with the incidence of reported rape — a matter for conjecture. *Dispatches* (Channel 4) did not shrink from airing the notorious and quite fantastical figure of "one in 10" children suffering molestation at the hands of an adult. But it did do a handsome PR job on Coventry's Social Services, who emerged as responsible and sensitive in their diagnostic procedures.

The programme was lucky in happening upon a patch of a real-life dilemma which, not even Granada's recent *Hypotheticals* on the same subject managed to invent. A 22-year-old man and his two infant daughters were being kept under observation in a charity-run "lodge" after his wife had walked out. The problem was that at the age of 16 he had been convicted of sexually abusing children. No further offences had ever been suspected; he evinced all the correct "caring" behaviour; a solemn meeting was convened, complete with stock-jewellery Councillor, to decide the family's future.

There were two lacunae in this otherwise illuminating report. It was not revealed how (indeed, if) the Social Services had kept tabs on the man for six years, and no one seemed to consider that the shock of having his daughters removed might lead him to seek substitutes elsewhere, thereby extrapolating the presumed risk into other people's lives.

Later on the same channel, 4 On The Floor launched a new series of Canadian comedy sketches which owe much to the late *Monty Python*. Among the expected urban neuroses and social inversions, we were introduced to "Canada's greatest aluminium crime fighter," who turned out to have a metal canoe permanently stuck to his head. This seems a fair comment on the level of intelligence here displayed, but the thing has "cult" written all over it.

Martin Cropper

A modest literary life

Autobiography is an area in which writers tend to be self-centred. Alan

Ross is the exception to the rule, writes Chris Peachment

Alan Ross wants his two volumes of autobiography, *Blindfold Games* and *Coastwise Lights* (the latter published this week) to be seen as the raw material from which he began to write poetry, and only incidentally autobiographical.

He is being unduly modest, because they are more than the prosaic pretext for the poems which stud the books. This second volume is also in part a fascinating history of metropolitan literary life from the end of the war, when Ross was demobbed from the navy (Able Seaman, Russian Convoys), through the Soho and Fitzrovia set of the late Forties, past the more recherché figures of the Fifties, such as Julian Maclaren-Ross and Henry Green, and up to the Sixties, when he edited the *London Magazine*. It is also a collection of character sketches of people he has known; he writes most tenderly about painters such as John Minton and Keith Vaughan. So where, to echo Roy Campbell, is the bloody horse?

The answer to that is: in every single well-chosen word. Ross might not be elbowing his way to the foreground as is the practice in much modern autobiography, but nevertheless a picture emerges of a perceptive man, with a rare liking for his fellow men, a strong interest in cricket and horses, and a fine prose style. One wonders why he had not been a novelist.

"I did try once," he says, "but without much conviction. It always seems extraordinary to me how, out of all the multifarious things that happen to you, a novelist can settle on one subject and turn it into a book. The war was tremendous for someone like me; it gave you a subject gift-wrapped."



Alan Ross: during the war, he says, "all I wanted to do when I got ashore again was to head for Soho. The grand life never appeared"

His shipboard adventures, including being sealed alone in the forward magazine of a sinking ship with a hose pipe to play on the glowing metal, are expertly told in the first volume, *Blindfold Games*. But while at sea, "all I wanted to do when I got ashore again was to head for Soho. The grand life, that others dreamed of, never appeared."

He maintains that Soho was at its greatest just before the end of the war, after which most of the people went off to find jobs, leaving only the most fuddled of hangers-on still cadging drinks at the bar. Julian Maclaren-Ross, who was the model for the experimental novelist X. Trapnel in Anthony Powell's *Dance to the Music of Time* sequence, was a friend of promise. "He should have been tremendously successful. He was very gifted. He had an enormous memory for the dialogue of all the films he had seen, and would have made a good scriptwriter. But everything in

him was failure. He would take 10 advances from different publishers, and therefore be unable to publish with any of them, because the other nine would be wanting their money back. His fur coat and his case, all that *folie de grandeur* would have been fine if he had found someone to look after him, and give him a sense of worth."

Ross was more fond of Henry Green, whose strange gerund-titled novels (*Living, Loving, Doting, Ending*) go in and out of fashion. "His father ran a small industrial firm, and for most of his life Henry made fun of him shuffling about the office moving a piece of paper from desk to desk. But then when Henry inherited the firm, he just couldn't make a go of it, and drank himself to death in no time. He had been such a handsome, dandyish man, but by the end he looked like a tramp. It was very sad."

Ross had long been friendly with painters and illustrators, and

the sale of some carefully bought works of art enabled him to buy a race horse. "In 20 years, I won about 30 races so it just about paid its way and was great fun. It cost about £5,000 a year to stable and train a horse, so if you win a couple of races then it will pay its way. Nowadays though, there are very few small British owners left. It's the sort of hobby that was possible then, but not longer."

His other great passion was cricket, and if a man could write that England never lost a Test series throughout his career as the *Observer's* cricket correspondent then he can justly boast of having lived through a Golden Age.

Nowadays, he devotes himself solely to editing the *London Magazine*, which he does single-handed from a shed in the back garden in South Kensington. It has an enviable record of introducing new writers to the public, and he can claim William Boyd and Graham Swift, among others, as recent protégés.

The life of small magazines, however, does not become easier with the passing of time: "The Arts Council has been very generous in the past, but I suspect that everything soon will have to be self-supporting. When I began in 1960 a phone call to Chatto or Faber or OUP would guarantee an advertisement being placed simply because they thought it was a responsible thing to do. Nowadays, some accountant bleats something about "cost-effectiveness" and so they don't do it. Now people are talking about sponsorship, but sponsors always want a box at the theatre or a seat at Lords. Not much mileage in a literary magazine."

It is iniquitous that one has to keep reminding people, in these Thatcherite times, that there are some activities which should never be judged by the size of their wallet. "Oh there are lots of things," says Ross, "that really ought to lose money."

Coastwise Lights by Alan Ross, published this week by Collins (£11.95)

Beaten by the venue

JAZZ

Lester Bowie's Brass Fantasy
Royal Festival Hall

Not for the first time, a decent band found itself struggling in the alien environment of a concert hall. Had this performance taken place at a more intimate venue, it might have proved a triumph. Instead, the formal atmosphere, the dry acoustics — and the many rows of empty seats — all conspired to defeat Lester Bowie's massed horns.

The trumpeter's nine-piece Brass Fantasy, consisting of trumpets, trombones, French horn, tuba and drums, is a high-risk enterprise at the best of times. As one reason for its formation was to challenge the dominance of the saxophone, the group could be seen as a throwback to jazz's New Orleans origins. But with no reed instruments whatsoever, Bowie has to work within a severely limited framework.

The studio albums, *Avant Pop* and the more recent *Twilight Dreams*, suggest, too, that the policy of re-claiming popular songs still has its disadvantages: the cover versions of Michael Jackson and Whitney Houston hits are lightweight beside the Ellington pastiche of "Duke's Fantasy".

On this tour, the band are joined by the drummer Don Moye, Bowie's colleague from the Art Ensemble of Chicago. Memories of the Ensemble are also heightened by the visual impact of Brass Fantasy. Bowie arrived on stage in a gold lamé creation; most of the other musicians glittered in green suits. It was suitable attire for the pseudo-jazz of Sade's "Smooth Operator", the second piece of the evening. Bowie took charge of the main solos, running through his catalogue of smears and growls. The raucous "Blueberry Hill" caught the group at its best, but the suite-like arrangement of "Good Morning Heartache" suffered from abrupt changes of mood and several fluffed notes. "Thriller" remains the oddest piece of all — no one but Bowie and arranger Steve Turre would have the nerve to transpose the original's thumping bass line for a tuba.

Clive Davis

Quirky fleeting charm

Le Cirque Imaginaire
Mermaid

At one point during this quirky, whimsical show Victoria Chaplin comes on with a largish saw and a violin bow. To the strains of some baroque choral music she plays the quivering saw like an antique viol, sometimes coaxing well-tuned notes from the unlikely instrument, at others merely producing the throaty rustle of hair on metal.

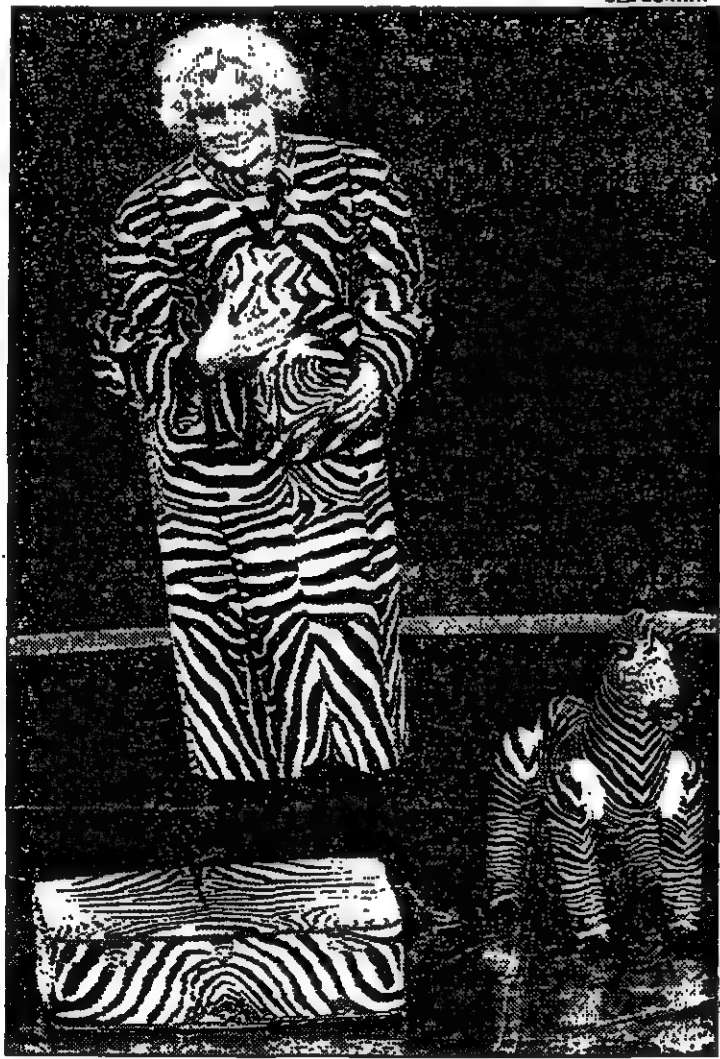
This could stand as a metaphor for the work of this two-person imaginary circus: attempting something difficult, improbable and quite possibly pointless, succeeding about half the time.

Too much success, perhaps, would look slick or vulgar: there is an apologetic air about the proceedings, especially those involving Jean-Baptiste Thierree — the constant suggestion of a Gallic shrug.

The one thing neither of them wants to look is professional. Not that they cannot be if they wish: Chaplin's trapeze act is highly accomplished and exciting, if atypical; Thierree does some nifty contortionist juggling.

More characteristic, though, are magic routines which go wrong or give themselves away. Some are quite crude, like the attempt to produce a dog out of a handkerchief which succeeds only in conjuring something the dog itself has produced.

Others are more subtle: in the



Earning his stripes: Jean-Baptiste Thierree in *Le Cirque Imaginaire*

middle of slicing up Chaplin, Thierree ends up with a detached chunk and cannot remember which way round it is meant to go. After much head-scratching (con-juring up images of a person with, perhaps, reversed haunches) Thierree just throws up his hands and wheels the apparatus off the stage.

Many moments, and many of the best, are even less substantial

— fleeting visual one-liners often involving bodily transformation, like a walking suitcase, a clown who appears to be carrying half of Thierree on his back in a cardboard box, a tandem the rear half of which is ridden by a grinning skeleton.

There are also puns: during a remarkable, psychedelic one-woman band act Chaplin produces a guitar and a bow, then proceeds not to play it but to fire the bow as an arrow using the strings of the guitar as bow.

Physically the two are oddly matched: Thierree is slightly plump and wears, in addition to an odd selection of wigs, an ingratiating grin which cannot help reminding one of Benny Hill; Chaplin, with long chestnut hair, white face and domed forehead, is both elfin and athletically strong. They could, at a pinch, be the two halves of her father Charlie. They combine memorably in the final Dance of the Umbrellas, impersonating amorous giant clams and quivering jelly fish.

It is rumoured that *Le Cirque Imaginaire* may soon be disbanded and that the two performers will return to the Big Top: It would be both a shame and not a great surprise, which is not meant as an insult. Their act has a makeshift, impermanent quality which brings its own, calculatedly evanescent charm.

Harry Eyres

The very bottom of the barrel

THEATRE

The Struggle of the Black Man and the Dogs
Gate Theatre

Bernard-Marie Koltès is considered a hot property among young French playwrights and this is the play, believe it or not, that established his reputation. I will do my level best to convey its pit-scrapping awfulness.

We are in Senegal where a French engineer, having shot a black worker who ventured to spit near his feet, and having thrown the body into a lake, wades out to retrieve it and throws it into a sewer instead.

The black man's brother (though are we not all brothers?) comes to the white bossman to claim the corpse which he cannot be given because (a) it is down the sewer; (b) the white boss is the play's symbol of expediency and would appreciate putting off decisions till morning when an idea may come to him; (c) he has just returned from Paris with a tart; the girl he would like to marry were it not for this mysterious wound down you know where, which makes him also a symbol of impotence.

The girl soon falls for the black man and his gothic utterances ("The scorpion you kill always returns") and gazing into his face she tells him, "Your lips are great". The engineer spends the first act drunk and the second act covered in sewage, and it is to Jonathan Oliver's credit that his nifty laugh and jittery movement cohere as a performance, though author and translator (Michael Gerard) sabotage any chance of a credible character. His trick of calling his boss "of man" gives him the quaint air of having been trapped in a time warp since Graham Greene left the area.

Michael Bat's production ignores the limitations of the stage and maroons characters in corners while the action shifts elsewhere. After the bossman's lie, "Better to kill the fox than preach to the hens", the girl packs her bag and walks out of the play. Some people have all the luck.

Jeremy Kingston

Nature's perennial cycle

OPERA

The Cunning Little Vixen
Coliseum

David Pountney's production of Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen* has already delighted audiences in Scotland, Wales and on television. English National Opera's turn is every bit as enchanting.

Pountney captures perfectly the opera's tricky ambience: animals exhibit human foibles up to a point, yet must also represent the perpetual, self-renewing cycle of nature. So the furry-friended scenes (which are properly cute but never cloying) are often turned back on themselves — by some deftly repeated business — to suggest a perennial aspect. The humans, by contrast, become progressively more absorbed by their own mortality and loneliness, though Norman Bailey's finely-drawn Forester does suddenly grasp the whole pantheistic meaning while apparently (in this production) drawing his last breath.



Cunning vixen: Anne Dawson

Pountney wisely avoids postulating too heavy a "message". This staging can be enjoyed purely as entertainment, with brilliantly apt choreography, voyeuristic woodpeckers with their megaphones and binoculars, and a chorus-line of roly-poly hens (who are the victims of surely the funniest massacre ever seen on the London stage). It is strikingly beautiful, too: Nick Chelton's lighting adding beguiling seasonal

colours to Maria Bjornson's hill-ocks-and-boughs set.

The title role is sung by Anne Dawson, whose timbre is ideally light and flexible, but who really dominates by her vivid and highly imaginative movement — a foxy lady indeed. It was a pity that Rita Culis, who acted well as the Vixen's mate, was so similar in timbre: the courtship-duet needed more vocal variety, and from Miss Culis much better enunciation. Christopher Booth-Jones (Dog) and Alan Woodrow (a marvelously strutting Cock) offered very funny cameos; Terry Jenkins's forlorn schoolmaster was a superb study of repression; Arwel Huw Morgan was incisive as the stoical parson; and Alastair Miles made an unusually dark and dangerous poacher.

In the pit Mark Elder had mixed fortunes. His pacing was excellent, and he often made the score sound remarkably wistful, but the ENO violins are not yet really comfortable in the close, high chordings with which this score abounds. Some of the slithering rhythmic life of the early scenes sounded tentative too. The orchestra will soon settle down, which will make this a most recommendable show.

Richard Morrison

A spring thaw in Prague

OPERA

Spring Festival
Prague

rather than a rage of vengeance, despite the fact that this Donna Elvira had a voice which could have cut every piece of Prague's famous crystal with no difficulty at all. And physical momentum at the crucial intimate level was sadly non-existent.

Wolfgang Schönc's Don was handsome and euphonious but little else: his "La ci darem" with Jitka Sobchardová's Zerlina had about as much voltage as my bedroom light. The evening was redeemed by Eva Depolova's juicy Donna Anna and a Leporello of vintage comic detail from Walter Berry, whose springing recitative recharged his every scene.

While Mozart was composing *Don Giovanni*, Leopold Kozeluh, the foremost representative of Czech music in 18th-century Vienna, was busy shaping *galant* little arias like the three Italian nocturns for four unaccompanied voices which introduced an enterprisingly planned concert by the Prague Madrigalists.

Just as so many Eastern European early-music-makers have, for the time being, to be resigned to

doing without period instruments, so their audiences have little expectation of hearing anything approaching stylistic authenticity.

The Prague Madrigalists' mellifluous blended, romantically moulded singing characterized everything from Kozeluh to Hindemith's Rilke settings. But such was the enthusiasm and character of their performances that one simply changed gear aurally and settled down to enjoy the discovery of a sensuously chromatic, late Baroque *Stabat Mater* of Frantisek Tuma and the more raw archaism of a suite of anonymous *Tafelmusik* for string trio from the same period as the Wallenstein Palace in which the concert was held.

From the Knights' Hall of the great eccentric general of the Thirty Years War to the golden-crowned 19th-century National Theatre by the Vltava, and a performance of Smetana's *Bartolomej*. The watercolour Bohemian-naïve of Karel Svoboda's set, and the tingling playing of the National Theatre Orchestra under Josef Kuchinka were in themselves irresistible.

But the production was sad testimony to the complacency and dramatic ossification of a theatre no longer freely open to critical self-appraisal or to diverse cross-fertilization of talent.

Hilary Finch

JESSYE NORMAN

'Amazing Grace'

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REVIEW

Lightly fantastic

PAPERBACKS

The Brontës Went to Woolworths by Rachel Ferguson (Virago, £4.50)

"It is marvellously successful," says A.S. Byatt in her introduction to this novel, "because it is about every kind of imagination." It is about mundane tabloid journalism and curiosity, and about the edges of the uncanny and the supernatural. Most of the time reality and fantasy can exist side by side, recognizably separate, but sometimes they merge even in the most ordinary lives. This is what happens to Deirdre, the narrator of this story, and to her sisters and mother, who share her fantasies and help to develop them as a family game. As a novelist Deirdre combines an energetic curiosity about other people's lives with a need to construct plots, to make patterns. So when she hears an interesting name or is struck by some remark about someone she has never met, she delights in imaginatively reconstructing that person's life (even down to the colour of his pyjamas), and making up stories in which he becomes closely involved in her own family life. What happens, then, when she does meet him and when he becomes sufficiently a friend to be willing to contribute to the fantasy version of his own life? It is fun but, as the goddess points out, it is also a bit silly. She sees no difference between fantasy and lies. Yet it is she who calls up the spirits of the Brontë sisters and is then suddenly rescued from the family by their ghosts. Fantasy has now given way to the supernatural and everybody is scared for a moment until the ghost can be put back into a story about shopping in Woolworths. Altogether this is quite a subtle comment on storytelling and the imagination. It is also a celebration of family life and family jokes.

Destiny, by Sally Beauman (Bantam, £3.95)

Sally Beauman has worked out what ingredients make up the formula for a pulp novel and quite cynically set down to provide them. First, she has a strong silent aristocrat. He is French because that suggests things like well-tailored gloves

and châteaux full of finger bowls (even the snobbery is out of date). Then she has a girl who is beautiful and thin and has had a difficult childhood in the southern states of America, because that can bring in race riots, hot weather, and plantations. Then to make it all a bit more modern she has thrown in film companies and fast cars and stock market intrigue. And, of course, there is incest. The reader knows all the time that the beautiful man who finally gets the beautiful girl is actually marrying his own niece, and will only find this out at the end. This is not so much a novel as an exercise in packaging. It is very boring.

The Archers (To the Victor the Spoils, Return to Amberidge, Barchester Echoes) by Jack Gallagher (BBC, £2.50 each)

The Archer family are always with us. They are better than neighbours because more predictable, and because they appear with more convenient regularity at the same time each day. So Jack Gallagher has decided to provide them with a properly detailed past. In the first of these mini-sagas Dan Archer returns from the First World War to take over his father's farm, while his brother Ben stays to fight it out at the front before returning to a hero's welcome. Thus the foundation for Archer family rivalry is set. In the second story similar conflicts are played out between Dan's two sons, Jack and Phil. It is still hard to make a living out of the land and even harder for people living in this small rural community to get along with each other. Jack takes to drink but is saved by a wife with Cockney common sense, and a mother with knowing country ways. In the third story Phil's daughter Elizabeth provides the focus for the family's rivalries, and the pressures have broadened out to take in local town life as well as the politics of the hedgerows. Many of today's listeners, of course, would prefer to imagine or just pick up hints about past Archer history. So the stories have to slot into any perception of the past and inevitably, on paper, it all sounds a bit flat.

Anne Barnes

NEW PAPERBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

- FICTION**
- This Allowed?** by William Donaldson (Futura, £4.99) Middle-aged and psychopathic writer off with druggy totty on Ibiza — nasty but clever satire of our times and morals.
- Lord Hamlet's Castle** by Hunter Steele (Paladin, £3.95) Hamlet has Elinore bugged; Ophelia is a tramp; Polonius is the boss of the secret police; Ophelia is gay (so what else is new?); the Ghost is a political host; lively professional literary prank.
- Missing Persons**, Walter, Winter Doves by David Cook (Aquila, £2.99, £3.50, £3.50) Humour, compassion, no sentimentality, on the side of the underdogs of life.
- The Day of Judgment** by Salvatore Setta, translated by Patrick Greagh (Collins Harvill, £5.95) Old aristocrat recaptures change and decay and time passing in the isolated Sardinian town of Nuoro, reminiscent of Lampedusa's *The Leopard*.
- NON-FICTION**
- Early Medieval Philosophy (480-1150)**, by John Marenbon (Routledge, £7.95) Introduction from Neoplatonists to Abelard.
- Florence, Rome and the Origins of the Renaissance**, by George Holmes (Oxford £10.95) Learned and authoritative portrait with pictures by Oxford medievalist, author of *Dante, Ionia, A Quest*, by Freya Stark (Century, £5.95) Daughter of Herodotus around the vanished civilization that is our yesterday.

Journey to nowhere

CLASSICAL RECORDS

Schubert: Winterreise Ludwig/Lavine (DGCD 423 365-2) Operatic Recital: Gabriela Benackova/Czech Philharmonic/Gregor Supraphon (CD 33CO-1970)

Schubert's last great musical journey, *Winterreise*, is the voyage not of a persona, like his earlier *Die Schöne Müllerin*, but of the mind. There is no reason at all, despite it being originally conceived for high male voice, why a woman should not sing it: indeed, archive performances by Lotte Lehmann and Elena Gerhardt are two of the most potent on old black disc. While Brigitte Fassbaender keeps us waiting for both a recording and a London performance, Christa Ludwig has released her long awaited recording.

It is something of a disappointment, perhaps we have simply waited too long. The generally heavy tread and slow pace of the songs ("Die Post" in this case is certainly second class) seem too often to be dictated by the requirements of the voice rather than of the text. Ludwig's vibrato is heavier now, and it hampers both the focus at *fortissimo* and, to some extent, clarity of articulation. The occasional heavy pull up to a higher note and the momentary lack of definition is sadly compounded by the over-resonant acoustic of the Vienna Musikverein's Brahmsaal, and the somewhat sluggish nature of the piano accompaniment.

James Levine differentiates too little between the changing harmonic colours, the detail of accents, *glorandi* and pauses in which Schubert's music meets his text so intimately. In "Rast", for instance, where Schubert's wanderer pauses to



wonder what drives him on, one can do without a luridly specific serpent with its bite, as long as the context of the song itself provides a suitably stinging psychological application.

Where Ludwig finds the right pace for both music and voice, her distinctive artistry is at once apparent: "Lindenbaum", "Frühlingstraum" and "Nebensonnen" are masterpieces in their own right. But they function as isolated cameos, and the dark vision which must integrate

them into one compelling experience just eludes us.

The Czech soprano, Gabriela Benackova, is an elusive creature. Changes in the political and contractual climate have a way of making her postpone and cancel her London appearances; so it is good to have her pinned down at last in a new release from Supraphon.

It could have been more generous (the nine tracks clock up to less than 50 minutes) and it could have been more varied (Puccini heavily domi-

nates). But this recital, based on a public concert in Prague, does capture with clarity and immediacy the faultlessly integrated range, the malleability, and the distinctively smoky, often plangent core of an intensely musical voice.

Puccini, more than any other composer, brings out Benackova's skill at tuning her voice to every changing second of the orchestration: listen to the ardent simplicity of each inflection of "Mi chiamano Mimi".

Hilary Finch

His master's voice

ROCK RECORDS

James Brown with Full Force: I'm Real (Scotti Bros POLD 5230) **Bob Dylan: Down in the Groove** (CBS 460267 1)



Soulmate: James Brown

Thanks to the spread of sampling techniques, the man who wrote the book on black dance music has been co-opted as a central character in the sequel. James Brown's dynamic Shithead rhythm section has featured (unknowingly) on a plethora of hip hop, house, go-go and rap records, and even when the master's twirly, grunting vocals have not been lifted directly from the original recordings, they are still a prevalent influence on the very latest dancefloor hits.

On *I'm Real*, assisted by the Full Force singing, playing, writing and production team, the godfather of soul pulls up alongside the careening juggernaut of modern styles which he was largely responsible for setting in motion. He blazes through the heavy

struts the engineer to get rid of the echo and add some static to the track, turning the rolling bass line and tight, crackling snare into a heady modern pastiche of the scratchy-sounding records of his past.

Whatever qualities Bob Dylan has to offer these days, contemporary relevance is not among them, and to judge by the pitiful collection of one-take singalongs on *Down in the Groove* the mumbly old folk singer is a long way past caring about anything much more than rounding up his superstar chums (Clapton, Knopfler, Wood et al) for the annual old boys' reunion.

Among lukewarm, roots versions of songs such as "Let's Stick Together" (popularized by Canned Heat and Bryan Ferry) and the trad-folk ballad "Shenandoah" are various country-spiritual dirges, like "Rank Strangers To Me". The four new Dylan compositions, two co-written by the Grateful Dead's Robert Hunter, are all embarrassingly bad.

David Sinclair

Miles of solo style

Miles Davis: Time In Place (Atlantic 781 840-1) **John Scofield: Loud Jazz** (Gramavision 18-8801-1 import)

Of all the musicians in Miles Davis's "comeback" bands, few aroused as much comment — though for different reasons — as the guitarist Miles Stern and John Scofield.

It would scarcely be an exaggeration to say that Stern — who appeared on the album culminating in *Star People* — was the least popular Davis sideman of all time, his stadium rock solos jarring against the trumpeter's fragile tone. Scofield, on the other hand, won over audiences with his more subtle blues inflections. He also furnished some of the most interesting compositions on *Decoy* and *You're Under Arrest*.

Stern has adopted a more understated approach since overcoming drug addiction. Judging by reports of his weekly performances in a New York bar, Wes Montgomery has as much influence on his playing as Jimi Hendrix. His new album, however, turns out to be a more hard-headed,

commercial venture. It is, if you like, a glossier version of *Star People*, with Michael Brecker turning in typically efficient solos on two of the tracks, and Bob Berg (another Davis player) looking after the rest. For most of the album Stern resists the temptation to pile cliché upon cliché. His writing, however, is restrained to the point of blandness. Like so many of Davis's acolytes, he may have made the transition to solo artist too early.

Happily, Scofield's latest offering proves a highly satisfactory successor to 1987's *Blue Matter* — which is hardly surprising, since it draws on the same nucleus of players. As with last autumn's concert, the linchpin is the drummer Dennis Chambers whose fearsome backbeat creates an ideal framework for Scofield's clipped runs. The guest contributions from the once-discarded George Duke lend authenticity to funk numbers such as "Dirty Rice" and "Wabash". Scofield's mastery of tone comes through just as clearly on the introspective "Spy vs Spy".

Clive Davis

THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

A stab at Supremacy

Lord Stockton, whose government never recovered from the body-blow of the Profumo scandal, could hardly have suspected that a future Conservative administration would one day help pay for a feature film to be made about the affair. *Scandal*, starring Ian McKellen as John Profumo, which begins shooting next week, is to receive around a sixth of its \$7 million budget from British Screen Finance. BSF is a private sector company but it receives £1.5 million a year from the Department of Trade and Industry. Kenneth Warren, Tory chairman of the Commons select committee on trade and industry, was not amused when I pointed this out to him. Promising to bring the matter before the committee, he said: "What a sad waste of public money. Surely there are better stories to tell which the country would like to hear?"

Moving tribute

When Sir William Rees-Mogg leaves the chairmanship of the Arts Council for the Broadcasting Standards Council he may not have far to move. In a cost-cutting exercise the Arts Council is currently moving its finance section from its offices in Yarmouth Place, its back yard, into the main building. It has already had approaches from outfits interested in renting the two floors. One of them: the BSC.

Aesthete's foot

We may soon be able to buy socks bearing the seal of approval of the Royal Academy. Roger de Grey, the president of the RA, was talked into designing socks by Sophie Mirman, head of Sock Shop, which is sponsoring the Art At Fresco event at the RA on the weekend of June 25/6. During the weekend, a sort of Summer Exhibition Fringe, 18 post-graduate painters will set



Mirman and de Grey up stalls in the courtyard of Burlington House alongside poets and musicians. He tells me: "Although I have grave doubts about myself as a designer, I am a great sock enthusiast. Having got the taste, I could go on designing socks for ever." The de Grey design is of emerald green, cobalt blue and rose spirals.

Who gets what?

There are some surprising financial footnotes to be added to the nation's £7.25 million acquisition of Poussin's "The Finding of Moses" this week. Before the export licence was stopped and money was raised to keep it in Britain, the painting was set to go to the Getty Museum in Malibu. But it was money from the John Paul Getty Jr endowment fund that helped the National Gallery and the National Museum of Wales match the price: so Getty was instrumental in preventing Getty getting it.

● Actors, with a capital "A", are to take over from the alternative comedians in Simon Gray's graduate comedy *The Common Pursuit* at the Phoenix. James Wilby, the star of *Handful of Dust*, which receives its royal premiere next week, is to take over John Sessions's role of Stuart, the founder of the eponymous magazine. John Gordon Sinclair is meanwhile swapping his part for that of Rik Mayall who is also leaving. Gray is now searching for a replacement for Stephen Fry and someone to fill Sinclair's original part.

Victorian value

On Tuesday the Wellington Museum in Apsley House, Hyde Park Corner, begins a week of talks and concerts to commemorate the Battle of Waterloo. The activity is designed to put "No. 1, London" and its art collection on the tourist map but it will also provide an excuse to scrutinize the famous nude statue of Napoleon in the stairwell. The statue became a subject of controversy last month when the art critic Alistair Hicks insisted its concealing fig leaf was a prudish Victorian addition. The museum has been thus far unmoved by his pleas that it diminishes Canova's work, but the next edition of Hicks's magazine, *Antique*, will provide important new evidence that it can be easily removed. Cecil Clutton, a friend of the last Duke of Wellington, has written recalling that during the wartime bombing of London, a blast sent the fig leaf falling to the ground.

Andrew Billen

CHESS

Kasparov passes a new test of strength

Last month in Amsterdam world champion Gary Kasparov recorded the most important tournament victory of his career. The European Options Exchange tournament, officially the highest rated tournament in the history of chess, ended in a Kasparov win, no less than two and a half points clear of his closest rival. This is a tremendous margin of victory and overshadowed similar performances by the legendary Bobby Fischer.

Amsterdam was also widely regarded as the unofficial tie-breaker from last year's drawn world championship in Seville between Kasparov and Karpov. Kasparov has thus passed the new test of strength against Karpov with flying colours, utterly dominating the former champion in terms of both overall score and individual games.

The final scores were: Gary Kasparov (USSR), 9 points from 12 possible; Anatoly Karpov (USSR), 6½ points; Jan Timman (Netherlands), 5½ points; John van der Wiel (Netherlands), 3 points. For Kasparov to score 75 per cent in a tournament containing the world's top three rated players is near miraculous. Here is the fourth and final game between Kasparov and

Karpov. Experts on the spot described Kasparov's winning process as a marvel of technique.

White: Gary Kasparov. Black: Anatoly Karpov. Caro Kann Defence.

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nf3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Nf6 5 Ng5 Ng6 6 Bf4 0-0 7 Nf3 Qe6 8 Ne4 Nf6 9 Nf4 Nf6 10 Bc2 Rf6 11 Bf4 Nf6 12 Bc2 Rf6 13 Bf4 Nf6 14 Bc2 Rf6

Kasparov is not averse to exchanges and evidently has no desire to repeat the wild speculations of his win against Karpov in their second game from Amsterdam.

Under severe pressure Karpov commits what, in the highest sense, can be construed as the decisive error. Black should strive at all costs to avoid weaknesses in his pawn structure, hence 22... Nxe6 is to be preferred.

If Black snaps at the bait with 24... Qxb2 then 25 Rg3 Qb1+ 26 Kh2 Qh7 27 Bc2 g6 28 h5 gives White a winning attack

Now that Kasparov has infiltrated Black's lines of defence, Karpov's pawn weaknesses begin to tell against him.

This counter attack is ultimately proven to be hopeless. If, however, 32... Qxc3 33 Qf8+ Kh7 34 Qc5 dominating the centre and threatening Bg8+. In this case an endgame remarkably similar to that of game 24 from Seville would arise. Black's prospects of survival would be minimal.

Karpov resigned and Kasparov rushed back to Moscow to attend a party thrown by President Reagan at the US Ambassador's residence.

Raymond Keene

BRIDGE

Tough at the top

The Europa Cup is surprisingly unknown in Britain, bearing in mind its prestige. It is the brainchild of André Lemaître, a former President of the European Bridge League. Now sponsored by Philip Morris, it fills the gap in the years when there is no European championship.

The format is similar to the cup winners' competition in soccer — the team which wins the premier teams competition in its own country is automatically entitled to play in the semi-final. This year 23 nations took part, the largest entry so far.

For the first time Britain, by winning a strong semi-final which included teams from Italy and Germany, qualified for the final. This was a fine achievement by a team which, although the winner of our Gold Cup, has yet to make its mark on the international scene. All credit then to Jeff Morris (captain), John Hassett, Ralph Churney, Ted Revely, Ray Dempster and Steve Whitleton.

In the six-team final, played in Copenhagen, they finished a creditable fourth, behind the full might of Austria (European champions in 1985) and Sweden, the current European champions.

On this hand from Britain's match against Belgium, Ralph Churney put up a spirited barrage in the bidding, and then played a wily defence.

Churney led the ♠2, a happy choice as a top heart would have revealed that East must hold all the remaining cards to account for the bidding. Revely took the first two club tricks and switched to the ♠Q, before reverting to clubs.

Declarer's problem was to find the ♠Q. He played a spade on which Churney craftily contributed the ♠9. Winning with dummy's ♠K, declarer re-entered his hand with the ♠Q and played another spade. Churney played the ♠10. Unhappily Lafourcade decided to treat East's ♠Q as a true card, which would leave East with insufficient assets for an opening bid, so he rose with dummy's Ace of spades, felling Revely's ♠Q. A good try by Churney, but it's tough at the top.

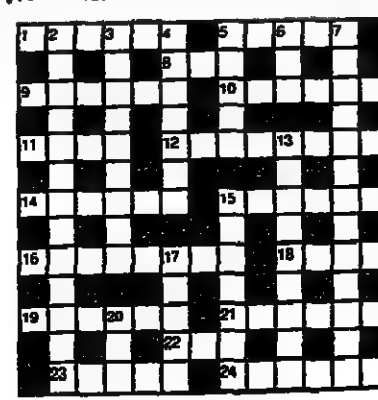
Jeremy Flint

CROSSWORD

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1587

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, June 16. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, June 18.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Spearhead cards (6)
 - 2 Described (5)
 - 3 High points (3)
 - 4 Puts out (6)
 - 5 Hand-beaten drum (3-3)
 - 6 Pro-Syria Beirut militia (4)
 - 7 Hermetically sealed (6)
 - 8 Fire shield (6)
 - 9 Observation (6)
 - 10 Iver Heath studios (8)
 - 11 Irish parliament (4)
 - 12 Goes round (6)
 - 13 Thumbed (pages) (6)
 - 14 Chatter — (3)
 - 15 Doctrine (5)
 - 16 Ostentatiously smart (6)



- DOWN**
- 1 Night-time battling game (6,7)
 - 2 With low neckline (9)
 - 3 Keep alive (7)
 - 4 Proprietor of The Times 1922-66 (5)
 - 5 Electrical resistance unit (3)
 - 6 Speed recklessness (13)
 - 7 Occurring at once (9)
 - 8 Shot repeatedly (7)
 - 9 Start (5)
 - 10 Chicken pen (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1586

ACROSS: 1 Hip-hop 4 Better 9 Di-amond 10 Pies 11 Blow 12 Up-rooted 14 Waffle 15 Lesson 18 Everyone 20 Play 22 Gobbi 23 Freebie 25 Dormer 26 Lovely

DOWN: 1 Hod 2 Play-off 3 Obol 5 Exploded 6 Tacit 7 Residency 8 Adept 11 Bow-legged 13 Playtime 16 Soluble 17 Unify 19 Ember 21 Zeno 24 Ely

The winners of prize concise No 1581 are: T.W. Rutland, Lussdown Avenue, Orpington, Kent; and Mrs Jean Bell, Lingmoor Close, Warrimoor, Doncaster.

SOLUTION TO NO 1581 (last Saturday's prize concise)

ACROSS: 1 Ashram 5 Panic 8 Ato 9 Danger 10 Dog fox 11 Pel 12 Exertion 14 Enjoys 15 Placed 16 Dad's Army 18 Urge 19 Design 21 Inflow 22 Cor 23 Sloth 24 Told

DOWN: 2 Space Invaders 3 Righteous 4 Markets 5 Podge 6 Nag 7 Cook one's goose 13 Tescupful 15 Pay dirt 17 Ranch 20 Idio

Name _____ Address _____

THE WEEK AHEAD



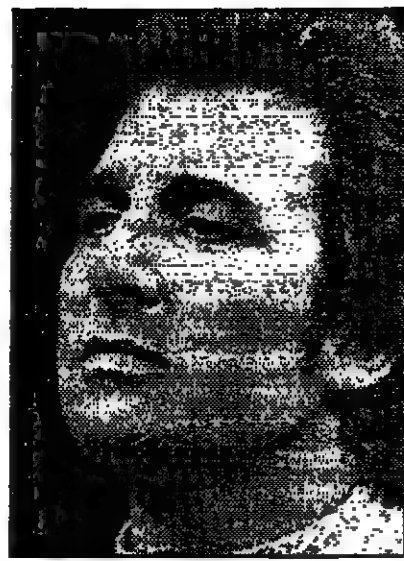
OPERA

FOLK ART: Paul Bunyan, the lumberjack folk-hero of Britten's "choral opera" was said to stand as tall as the Empire State building and to have a stride of 3.7 miles. No wonder it is only his speaking voice we hear in Britten's first stage work and his only operatic collaboration with Auden. Britten rejected the work almost as soon as it was written in 1941, but it was revived in 1974 and can be seen at the Aldeburgh Festival with an all-American cast. Snape Maltings, Suffolk (072 885 3543). Tonight and Thurs 8pm.



FILMS

SOUTHERN COMFORT: Jill Clayburgh plays a fish out of water in *Shy People* (15) — a meaningful drama from director Andrei Konchalovsky, set in the Louisiana bayous. Clayburgh plays a brittle New York journalist who travels down south to research the disappearance of her great uncle Joe. Deep in the swamps she finds Joe's family — a half-crazed ragamuffin bunch, dominated by Barbara Hershey. Cannon, Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148), from Friday.



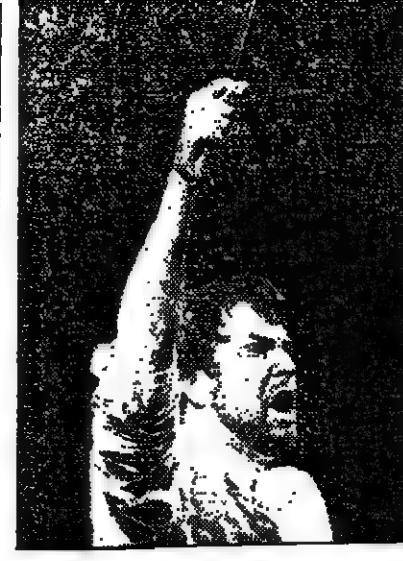
CONCERTS

TOP TENOR: Siegfried Jerusalem has sung leading roles at the Bayreuth Festival, the Vienna State Opera, La Scala, Milan and the Metropolitan, New York. The distinguished tenor will be at the Wigmore Hall on Tuesday where he sings two major song cycles: the beautiful *An die ferne Geliebte* Op 98 by Beethoven on poems by Alois Jeitteles, and Schumann's *Dichterliebe* Op 48, which consists of 16 magnificent settings of Heine. Wigmore Hall (01-935 2141), Tuesday, 7.30pm.



ROCK

MANDELA MARATHON: Mark Knopfler performs with Dire Straits at today's gala concert celebrating Nelson Mandela's 70th birthday. The event is being broadcast live on BBC2 and on Radio 1. Other major acts taking part include George Michael, Eurythmics, Whitney Houston, Simple Minds, the Midge Ure/Phil Collins supergroup, and an all-star soul band with contributions from a host of premier division singers including Roberta Flack. Gates open at 11am at Wembley Stadium, Middlesex (01-902 1234).



THEATRE

ET TU ENCORE: Roger Allam plays Brutus in the 1987 RSC production of *Julius Caesar*, directed by Terry Hands, which has now come in to the Barbican. Nicholas Farrell is Mark Antony and Joseph O'Connor is Caesar in a passionate and straightforward account of the play which won for Allam, particularly, good notices on its Stratford premiere. The production is played without an interval and lasts 2½ hours. Barbican (01-638 8891). Previews today (matinee and evening). Opens Tuesday.



GALLERIES

BOLD RESOLUTION: Jennifer Durrant paints pictures of uncommon decorative impact and has been a champion of serious abstract art since her exhibition debut in the late 1960s. Unlike many abstract artists, who mistakenly believe that big means better, Durrant's work really does get tidier and more confident the bigger it is. Her large paintings are currently seen to advantage in the Royal Academy Summer Show and some important recent works are on show at Newlyn Art Gallery, Penzance (0736 63715). From today.

THEATRE

LONDON

THE CHANGELING: Miranda Richardson, Henry Goodman, Paul Jesson and George Harris, directed by Richard Eyre in the 1662 Thomas Middleton/William Rowley study of sexual obsession. Lyttelton (01-928 2252). Previews from Fri. Opens June 23.

DOWN CEMETERY ROAD/AN EVENING WITH OSCAR WILDE: Alan Bennett and Patrick Garland with an entertainment on the life and work of poet Philip Larkin. Donald Sinden gives London premiere of his portrayal of the declining Wilde. Bloomsbury Theatre (01-387 9629). Road Mon. Wilde Wed.

THE FOREIGNER: Tom Watt (Loth in *EastEnders*) takes over from Nicholas Lynsford in the Larry Shue comedy. Albery (01-536 3878). From Mon.

A HARD DAY'S NIGHT: Hull Truck Company tour Frederick Harrison's play about two Beatles-obsessed sisters in 1963 and 1968. Battersea Arts Centre (01-223 2223). Opens Wed.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: Caroline Smith directs Oliver Arundell, Ian Talbot, Carol Royle, Cliff Howells in the perfect play for this theatre. Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park (01-496 2431). Previews Mon and Tues. Opens Wed. In repertory.

PANORAMA: Fister-Dirk Uys play about two South African teachers playing host to the daughter of a black anti-apartheid leader. With Jemma Redgrave. King's Head, Islington (01-226 1916). Previews from Tues. Opens June 20.

THE TRAITOR: James Shirley's Caroline tragedy in its first production this century. Young Vic Studio (01-826 6363). Previews Mon and Tues. Opens Wed.

OUT OF TOWN

COLCHESTER: The Heart of a Dog: British premiere of 1920s Soviet satire by Bulgakov, adapted by Chervinsky and translated by Michael Glenney. Essex University Theatre, Withershoe Park (0206 873261). Thurs to June 18 only.

DERBY: The Morticians' Tax: Play: Black Dog comedy in a black comedy by Hugh Ellis. Playhouse Studio, Leeds and Thurs. Looking Glass.

LANCASTER: As You Like It: The Dukes Theatre promenade opera production, joined later in repertory by *Alice Through the Looking Glass*. Williamson Park (0524 66645). Preview Tues. Opens Wed.

MANCHESTER: Action Replay: Fay Weldon play about three women, three men and their interrelationships across 25 years. Directed by Bridget Larmour. Contact (061-274 4400). Preview Wed. Opens Thurs.

CONCERTS

FRENCH IMAGES: Rafael Frunbeck de Burgos conducts the LSO in Bart's delightful *Escapes*, Ravel's jazz major piano Concerto (Alicia de Larrocha, soloist) and Bartok's *Symphonie fantastique*. Part of Images de France. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 8891). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

RADU LUPU: This exceptional pianist plays Haydn's F minor Variations, Sonatas Hob XVI/20 and 39, Schubert's "Wanderer" Fantasy and Impromptu D 935 Nos 1 and 3. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, cc 01-928 8800). Tomorrow, 7.45pm.

BRAVE WEBER: Janice Weber, a pianist little known here, undertakes an exceedingly demanding programme consisting of the 1838 version of Liszt's 12 Transcendental Studies and

Charles Ives's Sonata No 1. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061). Tues, 7.30pm.

SHELLEY'S SHOW: Howard Shelley conducts the City of London Sinfonia in Mozart's *Symphony No 40*, John Wallace solos in Haydn's Trumpet Concerto. Shelley himself solos in Mozart's Piano Concerto K 467. Barbican Centre, Wed, 7.45pm.

RADIO

THE HUNTERS: Launching a series on autograph collectors, Alan Titchmarsh talks to the columnist Jean Rook on why she pursues the signatures of the famous. Radio 4, tomorrow, 9-9.15pm.

CARVEL IN CONVERSATION: Dr Garret FitzGerald, the former Irish premier, is the subject in the first in a new series of interviews by Robert Carvel. Radio 4, Thurs, 11.25-11.50am.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: One last chance to see *Peter Grimes* tonight at 7.30pm; Dame Joan Sutherland's *Anna Bolena* continues its run on Mon and Sat, June 18 at 7pm; and on Tues and Fri at 7.30pm, further performances of *Macbeth* with

● In 1936 W.H. Auden and Christopher Isherwood wrote *The Ascent of F6*, a metaphysical drama about a climber's attempt to conquer a Himalayan peak. It is a piece that is well known but little performed and next week's Radio 3 production is the first since the 1930s using the full text and complete Benjamin Britten score. Mick Ford plays the climber Michael Ransome, with Patricia Routledge (above) as Mrs Ransome, and Bernard Hepton. Radio 3, Friday, 7.30-10pm.

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Renato Bruson and Elizabeth Connell. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

OPERA NORTH: Last week of its spring tour on Tues and Fri *Tosca* with Edith Davis in the title role, on Wed a somewhat disappointing *Fidelio*, and on Thurs and Sat June 18 the company's provocative and squalid *Carmen*. All performances start at 7.15pm. Alhambra Theatre, Bradford (0274 752000).

SCOTTISH OPERA: Reaches Liverpool on tour with Leonard Bernstein's opera-musical *Candide* on Thurs and Fri; Elijah Moshinsky's exquisite new production of *La Bohème* on Tues and Sat June 18; and a single performance of the company's playful *Così fan tutte* on Wed. All performances start at 7.15pm. Empire Theatre, Liverpool (051 7091553).

WET WET WET: Cuddly Scottish pop stars, currently celebrating their fourth week at No 1. Tues and Wed, SECC, Glasgow (041 248 3000); Fri, Whitley Bay Ice Rink (091 252 6240).

RY COODER: Second leg of the tour with his Moulton-Banda Rhythm Aces. Tomorrow, SECC, Glasgow (041 248 3000); Mon and Tues, Wembley Arena, Middlesex (01-902 1234).

SAIDLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET: *Giselle* today, matinee plus evening, ends the season in the big top. Cambridge (0223 463377).

SCOTTISH BALLET: *Roméo and Juliet* ends its tour today, matinee plus evening. The Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234).

VICTORIA MARKS: New work by a choreographer from New York for British and American dancers. The Place (01-387 0031).

RAMBERT DANCE COMPANY: Tonight's performance includes the last showing of David Gordon's *Mates*. Mary Evelyn's *Trace* and Richard Alston's *Rhapsody in Blue* premiere Mon-Wed, with Cunningham's *Sestet* replacing the previously advertised new work by Stephen Davies. Alston's *Pucknells* and Telfer's *Pierrot Lunaire* are given Thurs to June 18. Saidler's Wells (01-278 8916).

PINKIE ZOO: Jan Kopinski's vaguely "hermofrodic" electric quartet has hitherto won more acclaim on the Continent than at home. Jazz Café, London N16 (01-359 4836) Fri, Sat.

STEPHANIE GRAPELLE: At 60, the violinist rarely needs to deviate from the successful recipe of swing standards. Barbican Centre, London EC2 (01-638 8891) Thurs.

JEFFREY CAMP RA: A major retrospective of 65 paintings done since 1949. Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter (0322 265858). From today.

THE NICHOLSONS: Fabric designs and paintings from the 1930s to the 1950s by Nancy, Kit, E and the more famous Ben. York City Art Gallery (80904 623839). From today.

LANDSCAPE AND BEYOND: Paintings by Thérèse Oulton, Lance Smith, Chris Lebrun, Michael Porter and Hughie O'Donoghue in which landscape is more than just topography. Cleveland Gallery, Middlesbrough (0642 248155). From today.

GRANADA: As London except 11.30am-12.00pm. Granada 1.30pm-2.00pm. Granada 2.00pm-2.30pm. Granada 2.30pm-3.00pm. Granada 3.00pm-3.30pm. Granada 3.30pm-4.00pm. Granada 4.00pm-4.30pm. Granada 4.30pm-5.00pm. Granada 5.00pm-5.30pm. Granada 5.30pm-6.00pm. Granada 6.00pm-6.30pm. Granada 6.30pm-7.00pm. Granada 7.00pm-7.30pm. Granada 7.30pm-8.00pm. Granada 8.00pm-8.30pm. Granada 8.30pm-9.00pm. Granada 9.00pm-9.30pm. Granada 9.30pm-10.00pm. Granada 10.00pm-10.30pm. Granada 10.30pm-11.00pm. Granada 11.00pm-11.30pm. Granada 11.30pm-12.00pm. Granada 12.00pm-12.30pm. Granada 12.30pm-1.00pm. Granada 1.00pm-1.30pm. Granada 1.30pm-2.00pm. Granada 2.00pm-2.30pm. Granada 2.30pm-3.00pm. Granada 3.00pm-3.30pm. Granada 3.30pm-4.00pm. Granada 4.00pm-4.30pm. Granada 4.30pm-5.00pm. Granada 5.00pm-5.30pm. Granada 5.30pm-6.00pm. Granada 6.00pm-6.30pm. Granada 6.30pm-7.00pm. Granada 7.00pm-7.30pm. Granada 7.30pm-8.00pm. Granada 8.00pm-8.30pm. Granada 8.30pm-9.00pm. Granada 9.00pm-9.30pm. Granada 9.30pm-10.00pm. 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the union and several members of the board, is urging conciliation and compromise. The trouble with the play is that the arguments are so finely balanced, and the positions of the protagonists so fixed, that it comes over more as a debate than a drama. At the time (1908) *Strife* broke new ground in the middlebrow theatre by giving a fair hearing to the workers' cause. But as for contemporary relevance, Galsworthy's idea that all you need to solve an industrial dispute is to remove the extremists on both sides and let the moderates prevail seems a mite too simplistic.

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CHANNEL

9.25 Teesra Kinara. Pastozini drama series.

11.50 Bedouin Tales. Collection of first generation Asian immigrants.

10.00 The World This Week Includes an interview with Democratic front-runner Michael Dukakis; plus a report on the Nicaraguan truck talks.

11.00 Network 7 Includes an interview with pop superstars Bros., plus a report on identical twins.

1.00 Wind. Includes Elton John and Ziggy Marley (r).

2.00 Lost in Space (b/w). Vintage American sci-fi series.

3.00 Film: Frenchman's Creek (1944). Adaptation of a Daphne du Maurier story about an upper class lady who falls for a dashing French pirate. Starring Bette Rathbone, Joan Fontaine and Arturo de Cordova. Directed by Mitchell Leisen.

5.05 Kunguroo Counting.

5.10 News Summary and Weather.

5.15 The Business Programme. Includes an interview with Michael Julian, the new chief executive of Stourhouse, plus a report from South Korea.

6.00 Rowing. The Leyland Dai Power Sprint held on the River Severn.

7.00 Challenge Sport. Junior moto-cross (r).

7.15 The Storyteller. A dramatized European folktale by the Brothers Grimm (Oracle).

7.45 Dance on Four. Tritina Brown "Newark". A piece by one of America's foremost experimentalists in choreography.

8.00 People to People: A Piece of Her Mind. Documentary tracing the history of women's peace work during this century.

8.50 Animal Traffic. Disturbing documentary about the worldwide trade in live animals and animal products (Oracle).

10.20 Flex: Strangers (1937) (b/w). Jean Harlow stars as a young woman trying to play off her louse as his date to a gambler. With Clark Gable. Directed by Jack Conway.

12.05 Film: In Search of Famine (1967). Comparison of the worldliness of a film unit with the rural, uneducated Bengalis who inhabit the village they are using as a location. Starring Santa Paul. Subtitles. Directed by Mital Sen.

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9.45 **Celebrity Recital:** Paul
 Tarder (cello) and Geoffrey
 Priday (piano) play
Debussy's Sonata No 1 in
C minor, Op 32;
Debussy's Sonata (in
D minor); Tardar (Mon
André) includes 1942
Interval Reading 3.5.85
Brahms (Reading No 1 in E
major)
6.15 **Sales Apart:** John Key
 reports on general elections
 in Indonesia and the
 Philippines
7.00 **Arensky: Piano Concerto**
in F minor, Op 2: USSR RS
under Alabazov with
Alina Cherkasova (piano)
7.30 **Almeida Festival: Nisi**
Ensemble under Friend *
 perform Anthony Payne
 (Almeida) and Nicholas
 Mow (Ghost, Dances)
8.10 **Interval:** includes a
 number of the
 performances heard so far
8.25 **Colin Matthews**
(The Great Journey)
9.30 **The Sunlight of May:**
 Poems from Portuguese poet
 Fernando Pessoa, piano
 variations on a Portuguese
 theme arranged and
 performed by Christos Pittas
9.55 **Beethoven: Symphony**
No 4 in B flat: Barin
Marathon Orchestra
 under von Karajan
10.30 **Choral Evensong**
11.00 **Beethoven: Symphony**
No 7 in F (L'Espresso Armonia)
12.05 **News 12.05 Closedown**

1944

9.00 News; *The Hunters* (new series) Alan Titchmarsh goes in search of the *atichaph hunter*

9.15 *The Natural History Programme* (1) **9.50** Weather

10.00 News

10.15 *With Passport and Parasol*: Seven true stories of travel and adventure compiled and written by Julia Koss; (2) *Notions of Liberty: The story of Lord Ladbroke who wanted to stem to teach the King's children in 1862* (s)

11.00 *In Committee*: A weekly report on the latest news from Parliament's select committees

11.30 *Secrets of Faith*: Lorraine Worsley takes to Christians of different ages (2) *People in Their 20s*

12.00-12.30 News, incl **12.30** Weather

12.35 Shipping Forecast

12.45 As above except **7.00-8.00pm** Open University **7.00** Arts Review **7.30** *Milton in His Times* **7.40** *Lord Briggs on Victorian Culture* **7.55-8.00pm** Programme News **4.00-5.00** Options **4.00** Community Matters **4.30** *Eden's Eden* **5.00** *Eden's Eden* **5.30** *Eden's Eden* **6.00** *Eden's Eden* **6.30** *Eden's Eden* **7.00** *Eden's Eden* **7.30** *Eden's Eden* **8.00** *Eden's Eden* **8.30** *Eden's Eden* **9.00** *Eden's Eden* **9.30** *Eden's Eden* **10.00** *Eden's Eden* **10.30** *Eden's Eden* **11.00** *Eden's Eden* **11.30** *Eden's Eden* **12.00** *Eden's Eden* **12.30** *Eden's Eden* **1.00** *Eden's Eden* **1.30** *Eden's Eden* **2.00** *Eden's Eden* **2.30** *Eden's Eden* **3.00** *Eden's Eden* **3.30** *Eden's Eden* **4.00** *Eden's Eden* **4.30** *Eden's Eden* **5.00** *Eden's Eden* **5.30** *Eden's Eden* **6.00** *Eden's Eden* **6.30** *Eden's Eden* **7.00** *Eden's Eden* **7.30** *Eden's Eden* **8.00** *Eden's Eden* **8.30** *Eden's Eden* **9.00** *Eden's Eden* **9.30** *Eden's Eden* **10.00** *Eden's Eden* **10.30** *Eden's Eden* **11.00** *Eden's Eden* **11.30** *Eden's Eden* **12.00** *Eden's Eden* **12.30** *Eden's Eden* **1.00** *Eden's Eden* **1.30** *Eden's Eden* **2.00** *Eden's Eden* **2.30** *Eden's Eden* **3.00** *Eden's Eden* **3.30** *Eden's Eden* **4.00** *Eden's Eden* **4.30** *Eden's Eden* **5.00** *Eden's Eden* **5.30** *Eden's Eden* **6.00** *Eden's Eden* **6.30** *Eden's Eden* **7.00** *Eden's Eden* **7.30** *Eden's Eden* **8.00** *Eden's Eden* **8.30** *Eden's Eden* **9.00** *Eden's Eden* **9.30** *Eden's Eden* **10.00** *Eden's Eden* **10.30** *Eden's Eden* **11.00** *Eden's Eden* **11.30** *Eden's Eden* **12.00** *Eden's Eden* **12.30** *Eden's Eden* **1.00** *Eden's Eden* **1.30** *Eden's Eden* **2.00** *Eden's Eden* **2.30** *Eden's Eden* **3.00** *Eden's Eden* **3.30** *Eden's Eden* **4.00** *Eden's Eden* **4.30** *Eden's Eden* **5.00** *Eden's Eden* **5.30** *Eden's Eden* **6.00** *Eden's Eden* **6.30** *Eden's Eden* **7.00** *Eden's Eden* **7.30** *Eden's Eden* **8.00** *Eden's Eden* **8.30** *Eden's Eden* **9.00** *Eden's Eden* **9.30** *Eden's Eden* **10.00** *Eden's Eden* **10.30** *Eden's Eden* **11.00** *Eden's Eden* **11.30** *Eden's Eden* **12.00** *Eden's Eden* **12.30** *Eden's Eden* **1.00** *Eden's Eden* **1.30** *Eden's Eden* **2.00** *Eden's Eden* **2.30** *Eden's Eden* **3.00** *Eden's Eden* **3.30** *Eden's Eden* **4.00** *Eden's Eden* **4.30** *Eden's Eden* **5.00** *Eden's Eden* **5.30** *Eden's Eden* **6.00** *Eden's Eden* **6.30** *Eden's Eden* **7.00** *Eden's Eden* **7.30** *Eden's Eden* **8.00** *Eden's Eden* **8.30** *Eden's Eden* **9.00** *Eden's Eden* **9.30** *Eden's Eden* **10.00** *Eden's Eden* **10.30** *Eden's Eden* **11.00** *Eden's Eden* **11.30** *Eden's Eden* **12.00** *Eden's Eden* **12.30** *Eden's Eden* **1.00** *Eden's Eden* **1.30** *Eden's Eden* **2.00** *Eden's Eden* **2.30** *Eden's Eden* **3.00** *Eden's Eden* **3.30** *Eden's Eden* **4.00** *Eden's Eden* **4.30** *Eden's Eden* **5.00** *Eden's Eden* **5.30** *Eden's Eden* **6.00** *Eden's Eden* **6.30** *Eden's Eden* **7.00** *Eden's Eden* **7.30** *Eden's Eden* **8.00** *Eden's Eden* **8.30** *Eden's Eden* **9.00** *Eden's Eden* **9.30** *Eden's Eden* **10.00** *Eden's Eden* **10.30** *Eden's Eden* **11.00** *Eden's Eden* **11.30** *Eden's Eden* **12.00** *Eden's Eden* **12.30** *Eden's Eden* **1.00** *Eden's Eden* **1.30** *Eden's Eden* **2.00** *Eden's Eden* **2.30** *Eden's Eden* **3.00** *Eden's Eden* **3.30** *Eden's Eden* **4.00** *Eden's Eden* **4.30** *Eden's Eden* **5.00** *Eden's Eden* **5.30** *Eden's Eden* **6.00** *Eden's Eden* **6.30** *Eden's Eden* **7.00** *Eden's Eden* **7.30** *Eden's Eden* **8.00** *Eden's Eden* **8.30** *Eden's Eden* **9.00** *Eden's Eden* **9.30** *Eden's Eden* **10.00** *Eden's Eden* **10.30** *Eden's Eden* **11.00** *Eden's Eden* **11.30** *Eden's Eden* **12.00** *Eden's Eden* **12.30** *Eden's Eden* **1.00** *Eden's Eden* **1.30** *Eden's Eden* **2.00** *Eden's Eden* **2.30** *Eden's Eden* **3.00** *Eden's Eden* **3.30** *Eden's Eden* **4.00** *Eden's Eden* **4.30** *Eden's Eden* **5.00** *Eden's Eden* **5.30** *Eden's Eden* **6.00** *Eden's Eden* **6.30** *Eden's Eden* **7.00** *Eden's Eden* **7.30** *Eden's Eden* **8.00** *Eden's Eden* **8.30** *Eden's Eden* **9.00** *Eden's Eden* **9.30** *Eden's Eden* **10.00** *Eden's Eden* **10**

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Rowntree trust move cleared

The support given to Rowntree, the York-based confectionery group, by one of its key charitable trusts has been cleared after discussions with the Attorney General.

Last night the Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust, which owns 3.8 per cent of Rowntree, said it had been told that the "Attorney General is entirely satisfied that the trustees have acted properly."

The trust has pledged its support to the board despite takeover bids from both Nestlé and Jacobs Suchard, the Swiss groups which together control 46 per cent of Rowntree.

This prompted an approach from the Attorney General's office aimed at ensuring it was acting entirely independently.

Belgium job

M Hervé de Carmoy, who resigned recently as head of Midland Bank's global banking operations, is set to become chief executive of Société Générale de Belgique, Belgium's largest company.

Baring Japan

Baring Securities, the securities subsidiary of Baring Brothers, took up its seat yesterday on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. The company is one of only 16 overseas groups to have been given membership of the TSE.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2108.11 (+14.78)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	2780.38 (-151.68)
London	FT 30 Share	1468.2 (+4.5)
London	FT-SE 100	1849.8 (+8.3)
London	USM (Datastream)	157.63 (+0.30)
London	Gold	385.97 (+4.10)
London	Oil	104.18 (+3.38)
London	FT Gold Miners	83.88 (+0.05)
London	FT Food Int'l	95.12 (+0.04)
London	FT Govt Secs	228.6 (+0.1)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Shares	Price	Change
Abbey Life	94 1/2	+1 1/2
General Accident	95 1/2	+1 1/2
General Electric	95 1/2	+1 1/2
General Insurance	95 1/2	+1 1/2
General Motors	95 1/2	+1 1/2
General Trading	95 1/2	+1 1/2
General Union	95 1/2	+1 1/2
General Water	95 1/2	+1 1/2
General Works	95 1/2	+1 1/2
General Yards	95 1/2	+1 1/2

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	8 1/4%
3-month interbank	8 1/4-8 1/2%
3-month eligible bills	8 1/4-8 1/2%
US Prime Rate	9%
Federal Funds	7 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills	6.45-6.48%
30-year bonds	100 1/2-100 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£/\$	\$1.8175
£/DM	DM1.7192
£/Sfr	Sfr7.4362
£/FF	FF6.8070
£/Yen	Yen124.92
£/Ind	Indec33.5
£/ECU	ECU 20.84420

GOLD

London	Price
AM \$457.10	pm \$457.40
Close \$457.00	\$457.50 (\$251.50-252.00)
New York	Comex \$454.90-455.40

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (July)	pm \$15.05 bbl
Dec 1988	pm \$15.05 bbl

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

Market news on Stockwatch yesterday included: Triton Europe (01380) walled up 21p on hopes for the Paris basin, while Sovereign Oil (02376) also rose on speculative interest; Bryant Group (01119) surged 10p on speculation over its China Clay stake while Appletree Holdings (04091) slumped 10p on disappointing interim.

Recent additions include: Ratners Group 6 1/4% conv pref 02971; Thorntons 02943; Waterman Partnership Holdings 02966.

"I consider the interests of investors to be paramount"

The following is the text of a personal statement issued yesterday by Mr Peter Clowes:

In the past few days there has been a very considerable amount of Press and media comment concerning Barlow Clowes Gilt Managers Ltd and Barlow Clowes International Ltd. There has been much rumour interspersed with some facts. I wish to set the record straight.

Since May 23, when the STB first placed a prohibition order on Barlow Clowes Gilt Managers (BCGM), I have devoted 100 per cent of my time to seeking solutions to the present difficulties and I immediately instructed solicitors to assist me in this task. Since May 23 I have been working

night and day with my professional advisers to take positive steps to find practical solutions.

My primary objective is, and remains, to safeguard the interests of investors and their assets. As is known, Cork Gully were appointed special managers in respect of BCGM. Ernst & Whinney were appointed provisional liquidators of Barlow Clowes International (BCI) in Gibraltar at the instigation of James Ferguson Holdings plc (Ferguson).

Currently, today, applications are, I believe, being made in Gibraltar to appoint Messrs Cork Gully as Receivers of BCI with the primary objective that their mandate will be to gather in and safeguard

the assets of investors who invested in Barlow Clowes & Partners overseas business through the agency of BCI. Yesterday of my own free will I asked Cork Gully to take possession immediately of all the documents and records relating to the overseas business. I have undertaken to work closely with Cork Gully with a view to collecting all the assets of the fund for the benefit of investors as quickly as possible and with the minimum cost in order that those funds may be returned to investors as speedily as possible.

Furthermore I have also given to Cork Gully of my own free will a detailed list of all my personal assets and I have further agreed that I place those personal assets

within the control of Mr Michael Jordan of Cork Gully in order that he may be fully aware of my personal situation. Both these actions have been taken without any admission of personal liability on my part. These steps have been taken because I consider the interests of investors to be paramount.

There has been much speculation as to the dissipation of investors' funds. First, so far as BCGM in the United Kingdom is concerned, it is my understanding and belief that the total of those funds in the sum of approximately £51-£52 million is now held in cash by the special managers Cork Gully. The amount due to the investors in BCGM is I believe broadly an

equivalent amount and I understand from Cork Gully that they are using their very best endeavours to distribute these funds to those investors as quickly as possible and with the minimum of cost.

So far as the offshore fund is concerned, I am assisting Cork Gully to collect in the investors' funds as quickly as possible. I totally deny that those funds have in any way been dissipated as suggested in the Press and media.

I repeat once more that my paramount concern is to ensure that the interests of the investors in both the UK and overseas funds are safeguarded to the utmost of my ability.

DTI under fire over Clowes

By Lawrence Lever

Department of Trade and Industry officials yesterday sought to justify the department's decision to grant Barlow Clowes, the crashed investment company, a licence in 1985 — even though it had been trading illegally for more than a year.

But the Department's explanation — that Barlow Clowes was a partnership at the time, and therefore not subject to the Companies Act, which confers tough powers of investigation on the DTI — was given short shrift by lawyers yesterday.

"They can't sit back and say because this was a partnership we can therefore wash our hands of it," Mr David Pine, of Alexander Tatham, the solicitor, said yesterday.

Yesterday *The Times* revealed that the DTI had ignored top-level warnings about Barlow Clowes at least four years ago by a City watchdog, the National Association of Security Dealers and Investment Managers (Nasdim).

Moreover, Barlow Clowes had engaged in high-profile advertising, and took in millions of pounds without a securities licence. This was a criminal offence punishable by up to two years' imprisonment.

DTI sources said yesterday that the department had insisted Barlow Clowes become

a limited company before it granted it a licence. Until that time, the department did not have investigatory powers available, since partnerships fall outside the scope of the Companies Acts.

However, under the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958, the DTI and the Director of Public Prosecutions both had power to prosecute a securities firm for trading without a licence. These powers were not used.

Moreover, the DTI made no comment on the fact that warnings were ignored, and refused to say why the department had granted annual renewals of the fund management group's licence, or what scrutiny of Barlow Clowes the department had carried out.

If presented with any evidence that the business was not being run properly, they had powers to revoke or refuse a licence. Under the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act, Barlow Clowes would have had to make returns every 12 months and the DTI had a duty to check those returns.

According to evidence presented last month to the High Court by the Securities and Investments Board, Barlow Clowes had been making "seriously inaccurate" returns.

It would appear, however, that the department is conducting its own internal investigation into what went wrong.

Joint liquidators will assist the inquiries

From Dominique Searle, Gibraltar

The Supreme Court in Gibraltar has appointed joint liquidators and joint receivers in a move agreed by all parties in the Barlow Clowes International liquidation.

By appointing Mr Michael Jordan, of Cork Gully, as both receiver and liquidator with Mr Kenneth Robinson and Mr Nigel Hamilton, of Ernst & Whinney, as liquidator and receiver respectively, there is hope among investors of recovering more money.

The move was explained by lawyers as one that would help in co-ordinating information between Gibraltar and Britain

where Cork Gully are dealing with other business affairs of Mr Peter Clowes which are in liquidation.

Yesterday Mr John Perez, who has resigned as managing director of Barlow Clowes International, made clear that he had always believed the arrangements surrounding his company's investment had been perfectly in order.

With BCI staff employed on the accounts until at least next Friday Mr Perez said he feels a moral commitment to do everything he can, and pay the investors fully.

High-flying lifestyle: (above left) Peter Clowes and (from top) the helicopter G-HJET, at Denham Airfield, Bucks, leased by a company of which he is a director; Paddock Brow, his house in Prestbury, near Manchester; and the luxury yacht Boukephalos, known to Costa del Sol locals as "Mr Clowes' boat", which is believed to be heading for the south of France

Investigation spreads to Isle of Man

From Colin Campbell, Isle of Man

The task of unravelling the financial spider's web of the collapsed Barlow Clowes investment group yesterday spread to the Isle of Man.

Manx sources confirmed that they were taking a close interest in Mr Peter Clowes' connections with the island, where he is said to have substantial property assets and which he has frequently visited in a private jet from his Manchester base.

These inquiries are also

likely to include an examination of Mr Clowes' connections with Mr Peter Henwood, a flamboyant international financier who lives on the island and has been seen regularly with Mr Clowes.

Documents obtained by *The Times* show both men as being on the board of Corporate Aviation Services, an Isle of Man company, along with Mr Guy Cramer. This company leases aircraft, including the Lear jet G-PJET and helicopter G-HJET which Mr Clowes uses.

The Barlow Clowes group, in which an estimated 11,000 individuals, mainly British, had entrusted their funds, collapsed earlier this week.

The transfer of substantial amounts to various offshore centres is now under international investigation.

Most of the £138 million which had been sent by investors to Barlow Clowes International in Gibraltar is thought to be in other offshore centres.

Most of the funds are

thought to have been transferred to the Channel Islands, although some could have gone to the Isle of Man.

The wider international investigation into Barlow Clowes is likely to fall under the Isle of Man Financial Supervision Commission, which is responsible for monitoring financial and banking institutions on the island.

The commission's officials would try to establish if any funds had been transferred to the Isle of Man.

Clowes: No clients' money is at risk

By John Bell, City Editor

Mr Peter Clowes said last night that none of his clients' money had been used to pay for yachts or executive jets, or used in any of his personal business interests. "I do have an interest in a yacht, but no clients' money was used to buy that. It is a commercial operation and the yacht is on charter," he said in a BBC radio interview.

He revealed that he had agreed to transfer his personal assets, worth up to £25 million, to the special managers appointed to sort out the affairs of his stricken investment company. Much of his personal wealth had arisen from ownership of the shares he received for the sale of his investment in a computer company to James Ferguson, the publicly quoted concern that now owns Barlow Clowes.

"Last year I had net assets of £25 million. It is obviously a very different situation at the moment, and I don't think I could put a figure on it right now," he told an interviewer on the Radio Four programme *The Financial World Tonight*.

"There is a helicopter and jet, which is a business venture operated from Manchester. It is not clients' money. They are leased from a major Swedish finance house. There is no clients' money at risk," he said.

Mr Clowes said that he did not think that there were problems for investors in his British subsidiary. "I understand that all the gilts have been sold and that the cash realized is sufficient to repay all clients. I believe that I should request that at least a partial repayment should be made as soon as possible."

Of the £138 million invested through the Barlow Clowes offshore funds in Gibraltar, Mr Clowes said: "It is a delicate situation, but if it is dealt with carefully, all the money will be repaid."

"The fact that I have agreed to transfer my personal assets to the special managers is a clear demonstration of my earnest intent, one to the clients and two that I have not lined my pockets."

Advertising firms agree on merger

By Carol Ferguson

Two advertising groups, Boase Massini Pollitt and Davidson Pearce Group, have agreed to merge, thereby becoming one of Britain's top five advertising agencies, BMP Davidson Pearce.

To effect the merger, BMP is offering Davidson Pearce shareholders 573 new BMP shares for every 1,000 DPG shares held. At yesterday's closing prices, the offer valued DPG at £33.1 million or 160p a share, compared with the market quotation of 151p, up 15p on the day.

Full acceptance of the offer would result in the issue of approximately 11.85 million new BMP shares, representing some 33.4 per cent of the enlarged issued share capital

US exchanges act to keep out BAT

By Alison Eadie

Three insurance exchanges linked with Farmers Group, the Los Angeles insurance company, have resolved to change the subscription agreement with their policyholders to prevent the transfer of their agreement with Farmers to a takeover predator.

The exchanges, Farmers Insurance Exchange, Fire Insurance Exchange and Truck Insurance Exchange, have consistently opposed the \$4.5 billion (£2.5 billion) bid for Farmers from BAT Industries.

Farmers acts as attorney-in-fact for the exchanges, which represent 11 million policyholders. The exchanges carry the underwriting risk and Farmers manages the business

and acts as exclusive managing agent on behalf of policyholders. Farmers does not consolidate the underlying assets and liabilities and does not directly carry the underwriting risk.

The change in the subscription agreements will confirm the exchanges' view that no change of control of the attorneys-in-fact can take place without the consent of the exchanges.

BAT was last night studying the exchanges' move and had no official comment. BAT watchers in the City questioned whether the exchanges had the legal right to change their policyholder subscription agreements.

Confusion clouds investors' lobby group launch

Hidden costs of fighting City Goliaths

By Joe Joseph

The launch of a new body to champion the cause of small investors against the City's Goliaths has been marred by confusion over how the new lobby group will operate, who will fund it and how much its chairman might benefit from what is planned to be a non-profit-making company.

Anyone who objects to the aims of the Association of Private Investors probably bites the heads off live chickens, too. But the Mac West motto used by Lord St John of Fawley to toast the launch — "God is love, but get it in writing" — might be advice worth heeding by investors thinking of paying the £47.50 annual subscription.

Lord St John is one of a prestigious, eight-strong advisory council, keen to protect the interests of Britain's 9 million investors. Sir William Rees-Mogg, chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council and a former editor of *The*

Times, Sir David Napley, the solicitor, and John Biffen MP have also agreed to serve.

But it is understood that most of them had been expecting to thrash out the issues at a private meeting before the association was heralded.

Moreover, they had not been told that *Private Investor*, the quarterly magazine — whose founding editor, Mr Ralph Apel, a former linguist at British Telecom, has installed himself as API chairman — would become the house magazine of the new investors' association.

That would mean that a two-year-old magazine which claims a circulation of 27,000, but sales of only 2,000 — and which, therefore, makes its money from advertising revenue — could find that its circulation soars. The result would be swelling advertising income and a fat mailing list of small investors.

Mr Apel, aged 39, says that if the

council sees a conflict of interest when it meets for the first time later this month, he will try to resolve it.

Equally disconcerting for some of the API's advisory council, the association is offering its members a 10 per cent discount on legal or accountancy services obtained through the API. While the thought is commendable, the API's decision to charge solicitors and accountants £95 plus VAT to join its approved list is unusual at best.

Sir David Napley was taken aback by the disclosure.

"I didn't know they had to pay until now," he said. "If they don't change it, I won't stay. It's unacceptable."

When asked how much he would take as chairman, Mr Apel said he didn't know. How much are the council members paid? "That is none of your concern," he said. "Maybe not, but it might be for investors thinking of stumping up a £47.50 membership fee."

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Lukman may resign over Opec output quotas row

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

A row about output quotas could lead to the resignation of the president of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, Dr Rihwan Lukman, the Nigerian oil minister. The latest ministerial meeting of Opec members begins in Vienna today.

Opec is split between the conservative Arab states in the Gulf, which want to slightly increase output in the hope that world demand will rise, and those which want to cut output, so that prices will instantly move up. This group is led by Iran and includes Algeria and Libya.

Dr Lukman is trapped between the two camps, and will open the Opec meeting today with an appeal for unity and a call for unanimous support of the present output and price agreement.

However, Dr Lukman is believed to be facing pressure from within Nigeria itself to back the move to increase output. Nigeria has an urgent need to increase its foreign currency earnings from oil, and because its oil is more



Appealing for unity: Dr Rihwan Lukman, president of Opec

readily saleable than that of most other Opec members — its grades are like the North Sea crudes, which are in consistent demand by refiners — it could find ready markets for increased output.

A preliminary draft of his

opening speech is understood to contain a clear indication that unless a full agreement is reached, he will hand over the presidency.

Dr Lukman said yesterday: "There is no reason why we cannot have \$18 a barrel if we

respect our quotas. If we have to cut we will, but I don't think we will have to if all countries respect their quotas."

"The argument will be that the market conditions will support a high level of production. To that extent some people may try to insist on higher production. We intend to examine this to see what is best for the market."

At present Opec has a fixed quota of 15.06 million barrels a day, with Iraq outside the agreement, and total production running at nearer 18.3 million barrels a day. The Gulf states feel that the present market could easily absorb 18.7 million barrels a day of Opec crude and still gradually send the price upwards.

Mr Philip Morgan, an oil analyst at SG Warburg, the stockbroker, said: "There seems little that Opec can do to affect the market. They are now getting a price higher than they were before the last meeting, in May, and demand in the summer is now running at the same level it does in the winter. The market is reasonably firm, with prices showing a very slight upward trend."

Young defends merger policy

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

Lord Young of Gifford, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, yesterday hit back at criticisms of government merger policy.

He said that critics, who have been vocal during the Rowntree bid battle, had failed to allow for the fact that merger policy took account, where appropriate, of the market position beyond Britain's borders.

In a speech to the London Chamber of Commerce, Lord Young said: "My concern is your market for your goods or services, whether you are buying or selling, whether the market is local, national or international."

"For some products, the market may be very local, much smaller than the total UK market. Other products have a national market."

"But, often, the relevant market is wider — it may be the whole of Europe, or beyond. In these cases, there is competition from suppliers anywhere and we get the benefit of that competition. So, effective competition in the market is the main test, not some geographical limit."

Lord Young said that critics of merger policy — including Sir Trevor Holdsworth, the newly appointed CBI president, who argued this week that competition policy takes too narrow a view — had not taken on board the message of the DTI's *Blue Book* on mergers policy, published earlier this year.

This statement of the Government's position said that while international factors were taken into account, there was a strong presumption in favour of a Monopolies Commission reference if competition in Britain was likely to be restricted by a merger and, by implication, not in the opposite case.

Lord Young said: "Our concern to encourage effective competition within open markets is absolutely consistent with the creation of large, internationally competitive UK companies with a large share of the UK market, as long as there is international competition in that market."

While such mergers would be subject to Monopolies Commission investigations, he added: "If substantial efficiency benefits would be the outcome, then the merger could be cleared, whilst accepting some effect on competition for the time being in the UK market."

COMMENT David Brewerton A green revolution in store for Asda's image

Going green is not about politics or ecology at Asda Group, but it is about the environment — the shopping environment.

Asda, which was piling it just as cheap in the North as Tesco was in the South, is changing its image. Out goes the old brown Asda, specializing in tins and packets and in comes pale green Asda, with up to one third of the food shelves taken up with fresh foods.

Not a revolution in retailing, but it is a revolution at Asda, and shows every sign of paying off. Asda untied the unsuccessful merger with MFI late last year, leaving the stores group with its interests in supermarkets and Allied Carpets. Asda is now able to concentrate on its own future, and John Hardman, the managing director, sees it in green rather than brown.

Not only the colours are changing. Mr Hardman, who feels the ghost of Noel Stockdale pacing through his office if he contemplates spending too much on a site, is done with demographics, he says. Instead, he is looking to catch the country's "lifestyle leaders" and entice them through his checkouts. "They are very much attached to our clothing offer," he says.

This year, 15 new stores will open, spreading south into Bexleyheath and

Great Yarmouth. All will be green, and most will be 45,000 square feet. More important, they will push an extra 1 per cent of net margin through to the bottom line. "Gross margins go up on a greenification," says Mr Hardman.

Asda has a reputation in the City as one of the highest margin earners in the food retailing industry, and, therefore, analysts see limited scope for further improvement. But the fat end of the margin is earned on clothing sales, not food sales, and there is still room for solid margin growth and also profits growth from the food "offering".

That alone should push profits ahead from an expected £215 million before tax in the year to the end of April, 1988, to £250 million in the current year. The next year or two will be spent improving the quantity and quality of the Asda "profits offering", wiping from the excitable mind of Mr Hardman the memories of four years ago when Asda was careering towards the cliff edge, unbeknown to the City.

Beyond the current year, however, Asda will have to think once again about its direction outside of a food industry which must, sooner or later, reach saturation. But, anxious to avoid another disastrous merger, that one is, for the moment being put on ice.

Bricom buyout agreed at £359m

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

British & Commonwealth Holdings has agreed the long-awaited management buyout of Bricom, its commercial services subsidiary, in a deal worth £359 million — the second-largest buyout ever accomplished in Britain.

The complex deal, which is not expected to be completed before August, will eliminate B&C's central borrowings and leave it in a strong position to begin a programme of acquisitions in the financial services sector. It comes after other disposals of non-financial services earlier this year by B&C, worth £66 million.

Mr Peter Goldie, chief executive of B&C, said that the company had obtained a good

price for Bricom. It was 77 per cent above net asset value and represents an exit p/e of 19.6 per cent.

B&C is ploughing £11 million back into the company to retain a 20 per cent holding. Bricom's senior managers and 1,000 selected employees have done particularly well, securing a 15 per cent stake in the company's ordinary share capital at a cost of £1 million.

The rest of the £39 million of ordinary and preference shares has been taken up by institutional investors, including Baring Capital Investors, part of Baring Brothers merchant bank, which arranged the buyout. There is also £286 million of senior debt in-

volvement, underwritten by Standard Chartered Bank.

Mr Julian Lee, head of Bricom, said that there was likely to be considerable reshaping of the company in the near future — including some disposals — to prepare it for a full stock market flotation in two to three years.

B&C's shares fell 5p to 268p as the company advised that until they were reinvested, the sale proceeds would not compensate for the loss of income from Bricom. Mr Goldie said reinvestment would be swift.

There would be further investment in B&C's fledgling banking operation, Abaco, and in its property and development capital activ-

ities. "We are also looking at purchases both in Britain and abroad," he added.

A team of B&C analysts is going to the US in two weeks to explore acquisition possibilities there. B&C was also looking closely at European financial services markets.

He said that B&C was looking carefully at Singer & Friedlander, the small merchant bank in which it has recently built up a 10.4 per cent stake. He would not comment on whether there were plans to buy it.

There was also likely to be an auction among several interested parties to buy MW Marshall, B&C's money broking subsidiary.

Big sales chance for Rolls-Royce

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine maker, has struck deals with Europe's Airbus Industrie and America's McDonnell Douglas, which open up potential for extensive new engine sales for the next generation of big jetliners. The Derby-based manufacturer is also talking to Boeing.

A memorandum of understanding has been signed with

Philips shake-up threatens UK jobs

By Our Industrial Staff

Philips, the Dutch electronics group, has given warning that jobs in Britain could be threatened, after announcing 900 redundancies at its headquarters in Eindhoven.

Philips employs 20,000 in Britain at 20 sites, including Croydon, Crawley and Redhill in the South, Blackburn, Burnley and Washington in the North, and Glasgow.

A Philips spokesman said the "radical restructuring" was starting in Eindhoven but would happen everywhere. He said: "It is possible there could be redundancies in Britain."

He said the competitive struggle had put pressure on trading profit, making cost reductions necessary.

Court call for Bond on AGM 'hijack'

From Richard Battley, Sydney

Mr Alan Bond and representatives of the State Government Insurance Commission (SGIC) of Western Australia will be subpoenaed to appear before the WA Supreme Court over the alleged "hijacking" of Bell Resources' annual meeting.

Solicitors for seven Bell Resources shareholders associated with Sir Ron Brierley and Mr Kerry Packer — who are officially still bidding Aus\$1.03 billion (£458 million) for the company — told the court they would challenge "key aspects" of the inquiry by the National Companies and

Securities Commission, Australia's corporate watchdog, into the sale of Bell Group shares to Mr Bond and the SGIC.

The inquiry's "tentative" finding was that there "might have been some understanding" between Mr Bond's company, Bond Corporation, and the SGIC over the future control of Bell Group, the parent of Bell Resources.

The seven shareholders, who claim to have held the true annual meeting of Bell Resources on May 30, told the court that the reason Bell Resources postponed by 24

hours the meeting that the company's chairman, Mr Robert Holmes a Court, said was the genuine meeting "could well be evidence of the carrying into effect of the understanding referred to by the NCSC."

If so, they said, the May 31 meeting was invalid. They intended to subpoena as many witnesses as necessary — including Mr Bond, Mr Wyvern Rees, the SGIC chairman, and Mr Holmes a Court — to prove their suspicion was correct.

Bell Resources' counsel denied the allegation, saying the

NCSC report made no mention of Bell Resources, nor did it suggest that Bell Group or Mr Holmes a Court was part of any "understanding" between Bond Corporation and the SGIC.

The case was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

Meanwhile, the Federal Court here quashed an inquiry by the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal (ABT) into whether Mr Bond was a "fit and proper" person to hold a television broadcaster's licence. It ruled the ABT had no authority to hold the inquiry.

Gordon Russell in £9.5m acquisition

By Alexandra Jackson

Gordon Russell, the office furniture group, is to acquire GA Harvey, a fellow manufacturer of office furniture, for £9.5 million.

The purchase will be funded by the issue of 3.6 million new shares in Gordon Russell at 26p to Krug International, the vendor, by way of a placing.

Gordon Russell shareholders will have the opportunity to acquire the new shares on the basis of 37 new shares for every 100 ordinary shares.

Harvey made £1.1 million

in pretax profits in the year to April 2 on sales of £10.3 million. Exports account for 13 per cent of sales. Harvey's net assets at the last year-end were £3.8 million.

Harvey's products are distributed in Britain through 150 dealers as well as direct to corporate customers.

It manufactures from two factories in the Kent seaside resorts of Margate and Ramsgate, and has a wood-working factory in Woolwich, London. The company has two showrooms, in London and Manchester.

Jarvis Porter in 24% rise to £3m

By Alison Eadie

Jarvis Porter Group, the printer and manufacturer of labels and packaging, made pretax profits in the year to end-February of £3 million, a rise of 24.5 per cent. Turnover rose 35 per cent to £33.7 million and earnings per share gained 22 per cent to 11.7p.

The total dividend was 4p against 3.6p previously.

The labels division, specializing in high-quality labels for the wine and spirit trade, was adversely affected by the switch in customer ordering to more frequent, but lower-volume, orders with short lead

times. New investment in Scotland and Leeds last year will help give a more efficient service this year without substantially increasing overheads, the company said.

Last year's acquisition of RB Macmillan, which makes self-adhesive labels, made a small contribution to profits on a turnover of £3.7 million. Jarvis's existing self-adhesive labelling operations saw substantial growth, and recent investment of £1 million has made the plant "as advanced as any in Europe".

An average loss of materials was put at 1 per cent of throughput. Some dry materials soon lost a proportion of their bulk as they filled the air with dust. The problems were aggravated when the bulk materials were themselves either abrasive or corrosive, as they brought rapid deterioration in the machinery itself.

Cost of spillage clearance came out at an estimated £6.90 a ton, extra maintenance at £4.70 a ton and dealing with special factors £10.70 a ton. The institution's study estimated that, in a £10 million plant handling 1 million tons of bulk material a year, costing £40 a ton, the achievement of zero spillage should yield total savings of £620,000 a year.

Engineers study cost of dust and spillage Clearing up a £200m problem

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

The man with a broom on the shop floor, together with his mechanical equivalents for clearing up dust, mess and spillage, represents a cost to some parts of British industry of at least £200 million a year.

Furthermore, the overall cost to industry of cleaning up is much higher: a report quantifying such costs for the first time, looked only at plants handling bulk materials.

The report comes from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, the largest of the learned bodies catering for professional engineers. The institution first discovered the high cost of cleaning up when a questionnaire, compiled by its process industries division, attempted to

identify those areas where improvements were most needed in engineering practices associated with the handling, storage, processing and transportation of bulk materials.

The most serious problem turned out to be the generation of dust, mess and spillage.

This led the institution to look at a number of representative plants, from a coal-burning power station and a china clay producer to a flour mill and a fertilizer manufacturer.

The main cause of the cost incurred was cleaning up what seemed at plant level to be small amounts of "annoying" dust, or coping with the mess from poorly designed and managed equipment.

Average loss of materials was put at 1 per cent of throughput. Some dry materials soon lost a proportion of their bulk as they filled the air with dust.

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The prices appearing in this section refer to Thursday's trading

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING INDEX compared with 1975 was up at 76.8 (day's range 76.8)				OTHER STERLING RATES	
Sterling Spot and Forward Rates					
Range	Close	1 month	3 month		
New York	1,817.0-1,821.5	1,817.0-1,818.0	0.26-0.25p	Argentina austral*	17,912.2-16,019.1
Montreal	2,211.2-2,218.2	2,210.9-2,218.0	0.12-0.03p	Australia dollar	2,250.9-2,229.2
Amsterdam	3,350.5-3,351.1	3,350.5-3,351.1	0.04-0.04p	Bahian dollar	0.984-0.984
London	76.7-76.8	76.7-76.8	0.00-0.00p	Brazil cruzeiro	310.72-312.48
Copenhagen	11,857.7-11,858.8	11,858.2-11,858.8	1p-12p	Cyprus pound	7.70-7.70p
Frankfurt	1,170.0-1,170.7	1,169.8-1,170.0	1p-4p	Dutch guilder	2.47-2.47p
Hamburg	1,170.0-1,170.7	1,169.8-1,170.0	1p-4p	Hong Kong dollar	348.00-351.00
Lisbon	254.38-255.72	254.83-255.43	45-60p	India rupee	14,182.5-14,191.00
Madrid	1,212.0-1,212.9	1,212.0-1,212.9	1p-4p	Japanese yen	167.42-167.42p
Mexico	22,222.5-22,223.5	22,223.5-22,226.5	2-7p	Malaysian dollar (M)	0.4935-0.5032
Oporto	11,407.5-11,447.1	11,426.7-11,447.1	48-57p	Mexican dollar	4,674.7-4,675.72
Paris	11,407.5-11,447.1	11,426.7-11,447.1	48-57p	New Zealand dollar	2.2829-2.2830
Seoul	10,855.7-10,911.6	10,900.0-10,911.6	14-24p	Saudi Arabian riyal	6.8052-6.8450
Tokyo	226.85-227.51	226.85-227.16	4p-5p	Singapore dollar	1.25-1.25p
Zurich	2,805.1-2,811.6	2,805.5-2,811.6	1p-4p	Sri Lanka rand (Rm)	5.2051-5.4274
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Ireland	1.5570-1.5595	Denmark	6.5210-6.5260	Italy	1.2775-1.2785
Singapore	2.0175-2.0185	W Germany	1.7180-1.7200	Belgium (Cont)	35.81-35.98
Australia	0.7150-0.7245	New Zealand	1.5250-1.5260	Hong Kong	7.8087-7.8100
Canada	1.2281-1.2319	Sweden	1.9225-1.9230	Toronto	113.40-113.50
Canada	1.2185-1.2195	France	5.8030-5.8080	Spain	113.40-113.60
Sweden	5.9950-5.0010	Japan	124.83-124.93	Austria	12.08-12.08
Norway	6.2760-6.2810				

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Ecol.

MONEY MARKETS			
Swap Rates % Clearing Banks 8% Finance Has 8% Discount Market Rates % Overnight (Discount Bank) 7 1/2 Treasury note (Discount %) Buying 2 mth 8 1/2 3 mth 8 1/2 6 mth 8 1/2 Prime Bank 8 1/2 (Discount %) Prime Bank 8 1/2 (Discount %) 2 mth 8 1/2-8 1/2 3 mth 8 1/2-8 1/2 6 mth 8 1/2-8 1/2 2 mth 8 1/2 3 mth 8 1/2 6 mth 8 1/2 1 week 7 1/2-7 1/2 1 mth 8 1/2-8 1/2 3 mth 8 1/2-8 1/2		EURO MONEY DEPOSITS % Currency 7 day 1 mth 3 mth Dollar 7 1/2-7 1/2 7 1/2-7 1/2 7 1/2-7 1/2 Call 7 1/2-7 1/2 Deutschmark 3 1/2-3 1/2 3 1/2-3 1/2 3 1/2-3 1/2 Call 3 1/2-3 1/2 Franc 7 1/2-7 1/2 7 1/2-7 1/2 7 1/2-7 1/2 Call 7 1/2-7 1/2 Swiss Franc 3 1/2-3 1/2 3 1/2-3 1/2 3 1/2-3 1/2 Yen 3 1/2-3 1/2 3 1/2-3 1/2 3 1/2-3 1/2 Call 3 1/2-3 1/2	

5 mint 8½-9½ 9 mint 9½-10½ 12 mint 9½-9½
Local Authority Deposits (%)
2 day: 7½ 7 day: 7½ 1 mnt: 8
3 mnt: 8½ 6 mnt: 9½ 12 mnt: 9½
Local Authority Bonds (%)
1 mnt: 8½-7½ 3 mnt: 8½-8½ 6 mnt: 8½-8½
12 mnt: 8½-9½
Savings Certs (%) 1 mnt: 8½-9½
3 mnt: 9½-9½ 6 mnt: 8½-9½ 12 mnt: 9½-9½
12 mnt: 8½-9½
12 mnt: 7½-7½ 5 mnt: 7½-7½ 12 mnt: 8½-9½

TREASURY BILLS
Auction: \$485.5M
Bid: 137.36%
Last week: 97.325%
Avg rate: 98.007%
Next week: 97.00M

skated: 50%
received: 30%
received: 56%
last wk 12.128%
replace 210M

BULLION:
Ounces: \$457.00-457.50 Close: \$457.00-457.50
Local: \$455.00-457.00 Lms: \$457.00-467.50

COINS:
Per coin (Ex VAT)
Britnude: 491.75-491.75 £250.00-250.00
Kipergard: \$450.50-468.50 (£250.50-252.50)
American: \$450.00-471.00 (£250.00-269.00)
New Soverigns: \$107.50-105.00 (£25.00-26.75)
Picturans: \$58.75-61.00 (\$20.00-20.00)
Silver: \$670.00 (£270.95)
Poland: 57.15-57.17 (£35.90-35.95)

THIRD MARKET

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES					
	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
Three Month Eurodollar					
Previous open interest 5244					
Jan 81	91.37	91.67	91.34	91.25	1551
Feb 81	90.76	90.76	90.76	90.76	4705
Mar 81	90.54	90.54	90.54	90.54	99
Apr 81	90.41	90.41	90.40	90.39	89
May 81	90.28	90.28	90.28	90.28	99
Jun 81	90.28	90.28	90.28	90.28	99
Jul 81	90.25	90.25	90.16	90.13	20
Three Month Eurodollar					
Previous open interest 42946					
Jan 81	92.34	92.57	92.32	92.35	1776
Feb 81	92.34	92.34	92.34	92.34	224
Mar 81	91.64	91.67	91.52	91.53	224
Apr 81	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
May 81	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Jun 81	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Jul 81	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Aug 81	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Oct 81	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Nov 81	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Dec 81	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Jan 82	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Feb 82	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Mar 82	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Apr 82	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
May 82	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Jun 82	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Jul 82	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Aug 82	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Oct 82	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Nov 82	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Dec 82	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Jan 83	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Feb 83	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Mar 83	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Apr 83	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
May 83	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Jun 83	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Jul 83	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
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Apr 84	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
May 84	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Jun 84	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Jul 84	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Aug 84	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Oct 84	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Nov 84	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Dec 84	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Jan 85	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Feb 85	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Mar 85	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
Apr 85	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224
May 85	91.67	91.67	91.67	91.67	224</

[illegible]

nd (+)	n/a	+128.3	+21.3
nd (p)	n/a	212.69	119.27
nd (+/-)	n/a	-10.98	+21.3

FAMILY MONEY BRIEFING

Equitable Life softens the blow as premiums rise

Equitable Life has joined the list of life offices to announce a rise in premiums because of rising claims from AIDS victims. But Equitable believes some of its competitors may have over-reacted with their rises of 200 or 300 per cent and it has developed a novel system that it believes will soften the blow for customers while maintaining protection for the company.

There is to be a flat-rate increase on all term assurance policies of £40 per £10,000 of cover. But initially policyholders will not have to pay this much more. Equitable expects that, for the first year at least, 90 per cent of the increase can be withheld through a discount. But claims will be reviewed at the end of every year and if the level of bonus is proving too generous, the discount will be reduced on the following year's premiums.

A male aged 30 next birthday will now pay £8.17 a month after the discount for £50,000 of cover over 25 years. This compares with £8.50 before the increase, but £23.17 if there had been no discounting scheme.

At least one other life company that has already announced an increase in premiums is now thinking along the same lines as Equitable and is planning a policy with variable premiums.

TSB safety shares

The TSB is launching a "safety first" package designed to let investors put at too into the share market while protecting their capital. Seventy-seven per cent of money invested in the TSB Equity Fund, a unit-linked fund investing in a spread of international shares.

As with similar schemes already on the market, investors sacrifice flexibility in return for security but at least nervous investors can sleep easy while knowing that they can gain some benefit if markets take off again.

Art-buyers' guide

Art dealers Waterhouse & Dodd have launched a newsletter aimed at helping private buyers interested in late 19th-century and early 20th-century British and European paintings. Like dealers in many other areas of alternative



The Health Minister Tony Newton and the Nationwide Anglia Building Society chief executive, Tim Melville-Ross, handed a commemorative key to the first National Health Service workers to become home-owners through the building society's Partnership mortgage scheme. Jeff Semeria, an orthopaedic technician, and his wife Lynn, a community nurse, have bought a £267,000 house in Lower Feltham, Middlesex.

The Semerias' combined salaries of £14,000, excluding Mrs Semeria's London weighting, overtime and extra

money from agency nursing, would barely have qualified them for a mortgage of £35,000 under conventional building society and bank lending rules. But the Partnership scheme, which lends higher multiples of income to health workers at two-thirds the normal interest rate, enabled them to borrow more than twice that amount.

Nationwide Anglia retains part of the profit when the house is sold but Mrs Semeria says: "We are happy. At least we have a foot on the ladder."

Above: Mr Newton with the new house-owners.

investment, Waterhouse & Dodd reports an increasing interest in paintings as a form of investment since the stock market crash. The value of works by some artists in this sector of the market has increased tenfold in five years, says the firm's partner Jonathan Dodd. The first issue of The Fine Art File includes advice for first-time buyers as well as an article on the general principles of collecting art as an investment. This first issue is available free from Waterhouse & Dodd by telephoning 01-740 6711 or writing to 57 Macfarlane Road, London W12 7JY. A subscription for four issues costs £5.

Business bonus

Barclays Bank is launching a high-interest account for business customers. The minimum deposit is £10,000 and 14 days' notice must be given for withdrawals. Customers can get at their money immediately if they wish but there is a penalty fee of £2.50 per £1,000. Barclays already has a high-interest account for businesses, the Business Premium Account, which offers instant access without penalty. The new account will offer a higher rate of interest, 5 per cent on deposits up to £24,999 and 5.25 per cent on £25,000 and above. These rates compare with 4.6 per cent and 5.25 per cent on the Business Premium Account.

The VAT man writes

If you are in the unhappy position of being in dispute with the Customs and Excise over your VAT payments you may find a new book on VAT investigations useful. Tolley's VAT investigations is written by David Kelsey,

Handcuffs cut

The Inland Revenue has come down on the "golden handcuffs" payments used to discourage high-flying employees from leaving to work for a competing company. This type of payment, deemed by the Revenue to be a restrictive covenant, became commonplace in the City around the time of Big Bang when there was intense competition among financial institutions to recruit top-quality staff.

From Thursday this sort of payment must always be treated as part of the employee's normal pay. Until now it has been possible to arrange for the payments to be made separate from the employee's pay and in a way that meant the recipient paid either no tax, or tax at a much lower rate than he would ordinarily pay.

But the Revenue says some employers are now using such payments as alternatives to pay increases. The Government has decided that this "artificial tax advantage" should not be allowed to continue. So a new clause inserted in the Finance Bill has ensured that these payments will now be taxed as part of the employee's pay. This means that tax will be deducted at the individual's normal rate under the PAYE system.

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded return at tax rates 25%	40%	Min/max Investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c	2.50	2.50	2.00	1 min	0-7 day	01-600 8020
Fixed Term Deposits	2.00	2.00	1.82	1 min	7 day	
National Westminster	5.50	5.50	4.40	10,000-24,999	1 mth	01-726 1000
Barclays High Rate Dep	6.00	6.00	4.80	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-726 1000
Midland	4.00	4.99	3.99	10,000-24,999	1 mth	01-260 8000
Midland	5.50	5.50	4.45	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-260 8000
BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary A/c	3.50	3.50	2.80	1 min		
Britannia	5.65	5.65	4.52	250 min		
Bristol & West	5.60	5.60	4.64	500 min		
Bradford & Bingley	5.75	5.75	4.60	1,000 min		
Britannia	6.10	6.10	4.88	5,000 min		
Bristol & West	6.30	6.30	5.04	10,000 min		
Northern Rock	6.75	6.75	5.40	20,000 min		
MONEY FUNDS						
Aiken Hume Monthly Inc	5.95	6.11	4.89	1,000 min		01-638 6070
Allied Arab HICA	6.14	6.32	5.06	3,000 min		01-629 8802
Bank Of Scotland	5.50	5.71	4.57	2,500 min		01-826 8060
Bank Of Scotland	5.50	5.61	4.49	500 min		01-826 1567
Barclays High Rate Dep	5.75	5.88	4.70	10,000 min		01-826 1567
Britannia High Interest	4.89	5.00	4.00	2,500 min		01-741 4941
Citibank Money Mkt Plust	5.00	5.12	4.10	2,000 min		01-236 8391
WFC Bank Plc	6.00	6.14	4.91	2,500 min		01-638 5757
Northern Rock A/c	5.50	5.71	4.57	1,000 min	1 mth	01-388 3211
L & G High Int Deposit	5.00	5.06	5.20	5,000 min	3 mth	01-407 1000
Lloyds Investment A/c	4.50	4.50	4.01	1,000 min		01-407 1000
Lloyds HICA	3.45	3.60	4.48	2,500 min		01-626 4588
M&G HICA	5.50	5.61	4.49	2,000 min		0742 52800
Midland HICA	6.00	6.14	4.91	10,000 min		0742 52800
Nat West Special Reserve	5.50	5.61	4.49	2,000 min		01-726 1000
Oppenheimer Money Mgmt	4.25	4.39	3.51	1,000 min	1 mth	01-236 9362
Phillips & Drew HICA	5.37	5.48	4.38	2,500 min	1 mth	01-628 9777
Provincial Bank Plc	6.14	6.32	5.06	1,000 min		061-9289011
Royal Bk Of Scot Prem A/c	5.50	5.68	4.54	2,500 min		031-5570201
S & F HICA	5.00	5.13	4.10	500 min		0708 765868
Schroder Wegg	5.18	5.24	4.24	2,500 min		0705 827733
Tyndal Calf	5.37	5.48	4.38	2,500 min		0272 732241
UIT 7-day	5.08	5.18	4.14	5,000 min	7 day	01-626 4861
Western Trust	5.66	5.80	4.84	2,500 min	1 mth	0752 261161
NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Ordinary A/c	5.00	3.75	3.00	1-10,000	8 day	041-6494555
Investment A/c	8.50	6.38	5.10	5-100,000	1 mth	041-6494555
Income Bond	9.00	6.75	5.40	2,000-100,000	3 mth	0253 86511
Deposit Bond	9.00	6.75	5.40	100-100,000	3 mth	041-6494555
33rd Issue Cert	7.00	7.00	7.00	25-1,000	8 day	091-3864900
Yearly Plan	7.00	7.00	7.00	20-200/mth	14 day	091-3864900
General Extension Rate	6.01	5.01	5.01			
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
General Portfolio	7.50	7.50	6.00	1,000 min	1 yr	0992 31971
General Portfolio	7.50	7.50	6.00	1,000 min	2 yrs	0992 31971
General Portfolio	7.50	7.50	6.00	1,000 min	3 yrs	0992 31971
American Life	8.00	8.00	6.40	1,000 min	4 yrs	01 680 6000
Time Assurance	8.00	8.00	6.40	1,000 min	5 yrs	061 624 7298
FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS						
Sterling	6.95				7 day	0481 26741
US Dollar	6.32				7 day	0481 26741
Yen	3.08				7 day	0481 26741
D Mark	2.37				7 day	0481 26741
French Franc	1.65				7 day	0481 26741
Swiss Franc	1.65				7 day	0481 26741

Ordinary A/c	5.00	3.75	3.00	1-10,000	8 day	041-6494555
Investment A/c	8.50	6.38	5.10	5-100,000	1 mth	041-6494555
Income Bond	9.00	6.75	5.40	2,000-100,000	3 mth	0253 86511
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General Portfolio	7.50	7.50	6.00	1,000 min	2 yrs	0992 31971
General Portfolio	7.50	7.50	6.00	1,000 min	3 yrs	0992 31971
American Life	8.00	8.00	6.40	1,000 min	4 yrs	01 680 6000
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Sterling	6.95				7 day	0481 26741
US Dollar	6.32				7 day	0481 26741
Yen	3.08				7 day	0481 26741
D Mark	2.37				7 day	0481 26741
French Franc	1.65				7 day	0481 26741
Swiss Franc	1.65				7 day	0481 26741

UPDATE: Base rates rose a further half percentage point from 8 per cent to 8.5 per cent on Monday - the second week running that rates have risen. Last week the banks did not move their savers' rates but after the latest rise they have now increased rates. High-interest cheque accounts have also raised their interest rates. For example, Lloyds has put up the rate on its high-interest cheque account from 4.2 per cent to 4.9 per cent.

KEY RATES

Retail Prices Index (Apr '87 to Apr '88) +3.9%

Mortgage rate* 9.75%

Bank base rate 8.5%

Bank prime overdraft rate* 11.5-15.5% APR

Personal loan rate* 18% APR



Credit card rate* 23.1% APR

Hire purchase rate* 26% APR

Bank deposit account 2.5%

Building society ordinary account 3.5%

High-interest cheque account* 5.50%

Holiday exchange rates - £ buys*

Spanish peseta 201.50

French franc 10.35

Greek drachma 239

Italian lira 2285

* Typical rates

* £1,000 over 12 months

APR = annual percentage rate

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN 8.50%

Adrian & Company 8.50%

BCI 8.50%

Consolidated Creds 8.50%

Co-operative Bank 8.50%

C. Hoare & Co 8.50%

Hong Kong & Shanghai 8.50%

Lloyds Bank 8.50%

Nat Westminster 8.50%

Royal Bank of Scotland 8.50%

TSB 8.50%

Citibank NA 8.50%

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit	Old	New	Change	Unit	Old	New	Change	Unit	Old	New	Change	Unit	Old	New	Change
ARTIST LIFE ASSURANCE															
Artists Life Insurance	1172	1234	+62	Artists Life Insurance	1172	1234	+62	Artists Life Insurance	1172	1234	+62	Artists Life Insurance	1172	1234	+62
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Don't be put off the gilts offshore

The solid image of gilts investment has taken a knock with the demise of Barlow Clowes, but investors should not allow legitimate offshore gilt funds to bear the taint.

At first glance these funds appear to have a surprisingly high yield and wide variations in total return — capital and income. Indeed, at the top of the latest table for one-year performance is a fund that has brought investors returns of more than 25 per cent.

A rival fund manager said: "It looks so good you can hardly believe it. It reminds me of the funds started by large insurance companies — the good deals went into the gilts funds and the not so good ones went into the general insurance funds, so the figures looked spectacular."

But David Kidd, the investment adviser of Capital House Sterling Bond Fund, which is

'Very aggressively managed fund'

part of the Capital House arm of the Royal Bank of Scotland, says the spectacular success of the fund, with £1.6 million invested in it — tiny compared with giants such as MIM Britannia Jersey, which has more than £290 million — is due to being in partly paid long-dated gilts at the time of the crash last October.

These rose by 10 per cent, and as the stocks were partly paid, the fund gained from the gearing effect.

"It's a very aggressively managed fund. We are in and out of the market," says Mr Kidd. "We are interested in long-term performance, but there will be good times and bad times."

Mr Kidd, who was involved in designing the fund launched just over a year ago said another reason for its performance was that, unlike the other funds tracked by Jersey stockbrokers Le Masurier, James & Chinn, the Capital fund does not pay dividends.

It is a roll-up fund that reinvests income.

This used to have huge tax advantages but now that capital gains are taxed at the same rate as income there is no reason to prefer capital gains to income — unless you are below the CGT threshold.

But Mr Kidd points out that the need to generate income tied the other funds into high-yielding gilts, which might not be the best value in the market.

The other funds, to a greater or lesser extent, milk the capital value of the fund to pay out an unnaturally high income. Simply, there is no other way a legitimate fund can pay out 11 or 12 per cent while gilts are yielding 9 per cent. They pay out an inflated income while admittedly eating into the capital.

Michael Lawrence, the managing director of Cater Allen Gilt, defends the artificially high yields from these funds: "They are mainly bought by those who want income. They have made their peace with the relatives and look upon this as a highly efficient annuity."

"They don't mind the capital being eroded. The danger comes when people are seduced by promises of 'guaranteed' returns. That's just pushing water uphill with a rake."

The Cater Allen Gilt & Futures fund was top of the year-on-year tables at the beginning of the year and now occupies bottom position. "This is a volatile fund," says Mr Lawrence.

These gilt funds operate mostly out of Jersey, which is applying for designated territory status under the Financial Services Act. This will mean that the investor protection laws will be deemed equivalent to those operating on the mainland. The "period of grace" for bringing investor laws into line with British investor protection under the Act has just been extended from July 1 to December 1.

Vivien Goldsmith

OFFSHORE GILT FUNDS

Performance since May 25, 1987, to May 27, 1988

Fund	Net return (%)	Est. yield (%)
Capital House £ Bond Fund	26.47	—
Tyndall Gilt Fund	9.13	8.84
Schroder	8.43	5.48
NatWest Gilt	7.76	10.12
TSB Gilt Fund	7.21	11.21
Germans Cap Strat & Gilt	3.59	8.70
Brown Shipley	2.91	9.06
Royal Tel & Bond	2.73	8.15
Gowett High Income	-0.20	13.67
Cater Allen Gilt & Futures	-5.45	6.55

Statistics by Le Masurier, James & Chinn — prices offer to offer

Rules for the Rock

The demise of Gibraltar-based Barlow Clowes International, which went into liquidation on Tuesday with a large question mark hanging over its £130 million of investors' funds under management, has stunned the financial services industry on the Rock.

Fund managers fear the liquidation will reflect on the whole of Gibraltar's growing investment community. Gibraltar may be British to the core but it does not share Britain's investor protection laws — although in some areas it has its own — and share dealers based on the Rock are virtually unregulated.

In the early 1980s Gibraltar was hit by scandals involving insurance companies. Signal Life sold more than £4 million in investment bonds to people in Britain before going bust. It was later found that the man behind the company was a convicted American swindler Jack Grassie, who had evaded discovery by the simple device of using his mother's maiden name in preference to his own.

Signal Life was followed by two similar but smaller attempts to exploit Gibraltar's image as a safe investment centre, with the result that today Gibraltar has a properly supervised life assurance industry. The gap — as the

Gibraltar authorities acknowledge — is in the lack of supervision of share-dealers.

One company that has been prominent in the past year in attempting to sell dubious shares to investors in Britain is Griffin Hayhurst, which issues a tip-sheet called *Investorline International Report*.

Griffin Hayhurst is registered in Gibraltar, uses two addresses on the Rock, and even banks with one of Gibraltar's well known banks. But most of its high-pressure telephone calls to investors in Britain are made from an office across the border in Spain.

Last year *The Times* reported on Griffin Hayhurst's fraudulent claims concerning Kiga Industries which, it was said, had the rights to a new method of preserving food. Investors in Britain were told Kiga had sold its first preserving machine to an established food company in Scotland. The claim was false, the Fraud Squad stepped in, and more than £3 million of investors' money was saved.

More recently Griffin Hayhurst has promoted shares in a tiny American company, Kinosis, on the basis of false claims that Kinosis has done a huge deal with sports shoe

manufacturer Reebok.

Another share-dealing company registered in Gibraltar is Timezone. Its offices are in Madrid but its literature says it is British.

One of its recent promotions, a Florida video business called Transworld Network, is facing allegations of fraud brought in the United States by the watchdog Securities and Exchange Commission.

The SEC has also brought fraud charges against another company, Pilgrim Venture, which was allegedly run by the same people as Transworld Network. Its shares were sold to British investors by First Gibraltar Financial Consultants, which operates from Marbella but seems to use its Gibraltar registration to reassure prospective clients, as it displays a silhouette of the Rock on its notepaper.

Two further companies that have generated complaints to the authorities — International Finance & Management, and European Equity Research — really are based in Gibraltar.

EER, like First Gibraltar, sold shares in Pilgrim Venture — a remarkable coincidence given the odds against two independent brokers picking the same tiny American stock to recommend to their clients, only to find it is a

target for SEC legal action.

EER has recently changed hands and the new owners are at pains to distance themselves from the former management.

International Finance & Management is headed by London-born Bernard Klavir, who is wanted by Los Angeles police for alleged conspiracy and fraud.

The Gibraltar government is well aware of the problems it faces. New investor protection laws are being drawn up, says the colony's finance and development secretary, Brian Traynor.

He says: "We need to do something about the 'grey area' of financial intermediaries. There is no problem at all involving the banks, where we have modern legislation and supervision. What we have got to do is extend this to financial companies."

"There is no problem, for the most part, with people who have bricks-and-mortar presence. We can bring pressure to bear on them if we find out what they are doing and we don't like it. But there is very little we can do about fly-by-night operators who have registered here and then gone outside our jurisdiction."

Advising the Gibraltar government on its new laws is a



Rock solid: Sadly, some firms operate from the hinterland

financial sector expert Joe Bautista, who sees the need for urgent steps to protect the colony's reputation.

"The investor protection regulations we have at the moment are not adequate," he says. "There is no doubt about that. The laws we are drafting will create one central government body, which must have powers to monitor companies, the ability to send in inspectors quickly, and to order winding-up action if necessary."

On the credit side, Gibraltar attracts a growing number of perfectly respectable companies, Abbey National has set up a subsidiary that holds a

Gibraltar banking licence. National Westminster Bank has invested in a direct computer link to the UK, so banking with NatWest in Gibraltar can be virtually as efficient as banking in London.

Even Spanish banks such as the Banco de Bilbao and Banco Central are now well established on the Rock.

The government aims to have its new investor protection laws in force by next year. But until then the only safe policy is to deal with the firms you know — preferably those with parent companies in Britain.

Tony Hetherington

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Before you look to your future, look to our past.

Now, the personal touch

The stockbrokers Buckmaster & Moore believe they have discovered a gap in the investment market and are filling it with a new unit trust.

This trust is aimed at investors with between £25,000 and £100,000 who may feel they deserve some individual attention from an investment adviser but do not rank in the league of those courted by traditional stockbrokers.

It is an attractive package. For a start, the fund has an initial charge of 1.5 per cent or 1.5 per cent for those investing more than £50,000, compared with a normal unit trust charge of 5 per cent or more.

Investors will have access to a personal fund manager, who will talk to them on the telephone and even have meetings with them.

He will be familiar with the investment policy of the trust and able to help with peripheral investments.

The adviser will give advice on restructuring an existing portfolio and will be happy to manage a small share holding outside the trust, which the stockbrokers would normally disclaim.

In fact, this is much the same gap discovered by brokers Capel Cure Myers in 1985 when they launched their Master Portfolio Trust.

This international trust,

which has a £50,000 minimum investment, has pulled in £60 million and is said to be a favourite of accountants who manage pop stars' money.

The minimum initial charge is 1.5 per cent but could be as low as 0.25 per cent for a client investing £750,000.

As in the new fund from Buckmaster & Moore, there is a monthly investment report, an account manager and satellite portfolio management for those who want particular stocks with sentimental value.

Investor allowed to set the amount

a holding of gilts for income or stocks in a particular sector.

"The new fund is a carbon copy of ours," says Fred Carr, of Capel Cure Myers, "but it is the sincerest form of flattery."

Capel Cure Myers, which will not handle individual client portfolios of less than £150,000, is refining the Master Portfolio service.

It is setting up an option to set the amount of income to be taken — but on the clear understanding that an unrealistic expectation of returns will mean eating into the

capital. Mr Carr believes that an income of around 5 per cent can be generated by the fund naturally.

Montagu Loeb Stanley has frozen its MLS trusts for investors with more than £30,000 on the grounds that in the post-Financial Services Act era it could not, as stockbrokers rather than unit trust managers, market its own funds because of the polarization rules.

But the firm, which is now called Fleming Montagu Stanley and is part of the Fleming Group, has said it is still keen to take on private clients.

The minimum portfolio is £75,000 for a discretionary service.

There is also a unit trust management service for those with £10,000, shortly to be raised.

Paddy Ross, marketing director of Buckmaster & Moore, said: "We believe the Investment Portfolio combines the tax efficiency and simplicity of a unit trust with many of the key features of the service we provide for our several thousand private clients."

The flexibility and tax efficiency of a unit trust compared with holding individual equities stems from the fact that if individual stocks are traded they can trigger a

Capital Gains Tax liability. But a fund manager is free to buy and sell stocks without considering the tax implications.

The individual has to take note only of his tax position when he sells units in the trust.

Buckmaster & Moore does not have an official minimum amount for traditional individual portfolio management. But the minimum fee is £1,000. So anyone with less than £100,000 would be paying a rather high price for the management, and should be put off.

There are already several "fund of funds" trusts on the market, which aim to give investors a spread of opportunities by investing in a mixture of trusts operated by one group. New regulations from the Department of Trade and Industry allow for the formation of trusts investing even more widely, with a variety of companies.

Baring Fund Managers announced this week that it has received approval from the Securities and Investments Board to launch such a product. It seems the group is thinking about starting a trust that would be, in effect, an off-the-shelf unit trust portfolio management service. More details are expected next week.

VG



Paddy Ross: "combination"



Fred Carr: "carbon copy"

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Why Girobank sale is different

The two million customers of Girobank, which is being sold by the end of this year, may feel uneasy.

In fact, if the sale goes according to plan, they should have little or nothing to worry about.

It is not quite the same as the TSB flotation, so direct comparisons are misleading. The TSB was sold to a wide number of shareholders as possible, which meant that control went to no single person. Customers, indeed, benefited from preferential treatment in the share issue.

However, there are no such perks in the Girobank sale. The bank is being sold to a single buyer and will, in effect, become part of another banking group by the end of the year.

The Government chose this route because it felt, probably correctly, that Girobank is not strong enough to

Detailed conditions attached to any deal

survive on its own. If it had been floated in the same way as the TSB, it would have been at risk of being taken over by a stronger predator on the open market, with no control over the conditions of purchase.

Instead, there are detailed conditions attached to this sale.

The purchaser must guarantee to pump more capital into the bank, which needs more backing to develop. The buyer must also arrange a profit-sharing scheme for the staff. But most important from the Girobank customer's point of view is the condition that the purchase must not disrupt the bank's relationship with the Post Office.

Without access to Post Office counters, Girobank would be little more than a simple money transmission service. As its chief contact with the world is still to be through the Post Office's 20,000 outlets, Girobank is unlikely to change very much. It will have a rolling five-year

contract with the Post Office, but neither side is expected to terminate the arrangement in the foreseeable future.

What happens to the rest of the bank — the mortgage lending, the credit and cash card and other operations — is less clear, but a new owner will probably enhance these services.

The chief question customers should be asking is who is going to buy Girobank. The answer is not at all clear to the City experts, yet the eventual owner will affect the future character of the bank and the kind of services it offers.

The buyer will not be one of the big four or five clearing banks — the Government has them out. Building societies also appear to be out of the running, barred by existing legislation from owning banks.

That leaves a clutch of small British banks, a few non-Bank financial services groups and a whole range of foreign institutions. The Co-operative Bank could turn out to be a strong runner but may not have the resources to absorb bigger banks. Bank of Scotland is also interested. So are the Prudential, British & Commonwealth Holdings and several Continental banks.

It is obviously too soon to say which contender Girobank will end the day. The first round of bidding finishes in two weeks, to be followed by a second round in the late summer. But the fact that Girobank is being taken out from under the wing of the Government should make no difference at all to its financial security.

The Bank of England is not infallible, but it will be taking particular care to make sure Girobank finds a safe home.

If there is one nightmare the Bank of England will do all in its power to avoid, it is that of a British clearing bank running into trouble.

Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

Interest bait for students

Students who bank with Lloyds and the Midland are to be paid interest on current account balances.

The two banks revealed their packages for attracting students this week as open season for hooking the new intake got under way.

Their new move brought some hope to other bank customers who have been wondering when the banks would respond to the challenge from the building societies and start paying interest on current accounts.

Lloyds will pay 3.5 per cent and will give students an interest-free overdraft of £200, free banking, an Access card and one of the new Visa payment cards, which take money straight out of your account when you make a purchase and eliminate the need to write cheques.

Graduates will get a further year's free banking on student terms and the offer of either a £1,000 overdraft or a personal loan of £1,000 over two years — both at cheaper than normal rates.

This package is part of Lloyds' policy of treating young people as responsible customers.

With parental consent they can have a Cashpoint card at the age of 13 and graduate to a cheque book at 16 and the full banking package at 18, with all current accounts paying interest.

The under-12s still have the Black Horse Young Saver Account, paying 3 per cent rather than 3.5 per cent, which will be paid on older children's accounts.

The Midland is also discontinuing gifts, although there are still a free student coach card worth £3.90, a free Eurocheque card, which normally costs £5, and travellers' cheques free of commission charges.

The Midland is paying 3.84 per cent to students after tax. This Lloyds-beating figure arises because the Midland is committed to paying 3.5 percentage points below the prevailing base rate, which is now 8.5 per cent.

The offer of interest is part of a new

package for students that includes a £200 interest-free overdraft to cover any delays in receiving the grant cheque. Other overdrafts will be charged at one percentage point over base rate.

Students are also being offered a special student insurance package covering personal possessions, personal accident and damage to a landlord's property, for £38.

Barclays was the first of the Big Four to announce its terms for students. It has returned to the familiar theme of gifts and is now offering a Filofax and £10 to students who open an account.

Since Barclays severed its South African links it has managed to increase its share of the student market from 15 to 23 per cent. Seymour Fortescue, Barclays' director of retail services claimed: "Last year's

Cheap loans to be repaid over 10 years

success in attracting new students demonstrated the effectiveness of offering an attractive package."

National Westminster, which has the largest slice of the student market, 41 per cent, has not yet revealed its plans. "Our aim is to remain competitive," said a NatWest spokesman.

The Government looks set to turn to the banks to provide students with cheap loans up to £1,000 each from 1990. Students will be expected to repay the loans over 10 years and the taxpayer will have to subsidize the interest charges and suffer any bad debts.

The Government has dropped plans to link the new loans system to a £100 cut in the student grant.

The full student grant for the next academic year will be £2,425 in London, against £2,330 last year, and £2,050 outside London, against last year's £1,972.

Vivien Goldsmith

Now's the time to back the tortoise



When you seek the best return from your money, your Building Society might appear to be the front runner.

But, unless you have the very short term in view, you will find that high income equity unit trusts have consistently taken the lead. This is because they aim to invest in the shares of successful companies which increase their dividends year by year — so increasing your income and your capital over the medium to long term.

Of course past performance cannot be relied upon as a guide to future prospects. Unit trust investment does incur a higher risk than Building Society savings.

But as these figures show, the slower starter (the unit trust) is likely to provide much better odds for your money over the long run.

HOW THE RACE WAS RUN					
Results of £1,000 invested over 10 years to 1st April 1988					
MEDIAN EQUITY INCOME TRUST	YEAR	BUILDING SOCIETY HIGH INCOME ACCOUNT		YEAR	MEDIAN EQUITY INCOME TRUST
		CAPITAL	INCOME		
£1,085	1979	£1,000	£84	1979	£1,085
£882	1980	"	£108	1980	£882
£957	1981	"	£120	1981	£957
£1,075	1982	"	£107	1982	£1,075
£1,216	1983	"	£93	1983	£1,216
£1,741	1984	"	£86	1984	£1,741
£2,032	1985	"	£87	1985	£2,032
£2,797	1986	"	£92	1986	£2,797
£3,567	1987	"	£73	1987	£3,567
£3,367	1988	"	£72	1988	£3,367

New Tax Attractions. The new tax climate enhances the attraction of high income equity unit trusts. Now you can invest for rising income and growing capital in the knowledge that all your taxable returns will be taxed at the same rates. It must always be remembered that the price of units and the income taxable from them, may go down as well as up.

Look to the future. As the proverbial hare stopped for a sleep and allowed the tortoise to win, so your Building Society money can become dormant while your unit trust investment carries on generating a better return for you. Find out how the Tortoise — that's the Kleinwort Barrington High Yield Trust — can give your money a better run over the longer term. Our free booklet tells all.

CALL 01-623 8000
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FAMILY MONEY/3

Pitfalls in expat haven

If your vision of expatriate life in Spain is one long round of golf and cocktails, you are leaving something vital out, writes *Pauline Skypala*. There are the hours spent poring over incomprehensible forms vital to your being granted a residence permit, pitting your wits against the complicated taxation system, or just battling to get a telephone installed.

Spain is renowned for the labyrinthine complexities of its bureaucracy — hence the existence of professional form-fillers, who know which ones you need for all eventualities, where to find them, and how to fill them out.

One of the first rules of survival in Spain is to hoard all your official pieces of paper — they will make all the difference between being allowed to take money out of the country and being stopped, for example.

Then there is the worry of deciding whom to trust with the capital sum you need to invest for an income to supplement your pension, or even provide one if you are a self-employed person who always relied on the sale of the business to provide the ready cash for retirement — not to mention the extraordinary

mess that some people manage to get into over property purchase.

The Spanish inheritance tax implications of owning property are enough to have you reaching for another gin and tonic, or the first flight back to the UK. The top rate of 81 per cent makes the UK's 40 per cent look decidedly generous.

The majority of expatriates probably live in blissful ignorance of their tax liabilities — or assume they have none, in the erroneous belief that Spain is some sort of tax haven. It never has been, although inefficient administration used to allow tax evasion on a huge scale. Since the Spanish equivalent of VAT was introduced when Spain joined the European Community in 1986, the Spanish taxmen have uncovered 400,000 taxpayers who had previously managed to escape its notice.

In general then, you do not leave your financial problems at home with the bad weather when you leave the UK. If you are still in the planning stages of retiring to Spain, Spanish tax is probably the least of your worries.

Much more immediate is making sure your UK tax position is not adversely af-

ected, particularly from the point of view of Capital Gains Tax if you are selling a business, or even just your UK property.

Take professional advice before you make any irrevocable decisions — mistakes can be expensive. And you will find advice harder to come by once you get out to Spain.

This was shown by the comments of visitors to the International Money Show in Marbella. The sources of reliable advice on the spot were lamentably few they said, although more and more

Property market totally different

financial advice businesses are setting up in Gibraltar, Spain's nearest tax haven.

Nobody wants to hand money over to a crook, even if it was earned in the first place by less than legitimate means. Security is a number one priority, especially as the most sensible place to invest for an income is often offshore.

Investing for an income is a major concern for the expatriates living on the Spanish coast. As the majority are retired rather than working,

that should not come as a huge surprise.

For many, this is the first time in their lives that they have had a large capital sum to invest, realized from the sale of a business or a UK property — and they just do not know where to turn for advice. In particular, they need advice pertinent to their own circumstances, taking into account their tax position, their plans and other factors such as the strength of the peseta against other currencies.

Offshore gilt funds were certainly doing a roaring trade at the show, and one group intending to launch a fund in the autumn came away from the show with the firm intention of doing it as soon as reasonably possible. The demand for a secure source of high income is inexhaustible.

The most attractive-looking gilt funds are those with the highest yield, but there is a catch with these — they can pay such a high level of income only at the expense of the capital invested.

The gilt fund managers who go for the highest yield projections inevitably have either to dividend-wash or to go for high coupon stocks well over par," says Derek Hain-

waite, of Jersey stockbrokers Le Masurier, James & Chinn.

"There are people who require a high tax-free income irrespective of capital damage, and in that situation you can make a case for these high-yield funds. But I prefer to go for the funds with more modest yield projections."

One thing expatriates quickly learn is that the property market in Spain bears no resemblance to the British one. Competition between developers is fierce, and marketing costs are high. Who ultimately pays these? The buyer, of course.

Mark-ups of 20 per cent on the market value of property are not unusual. And with so much new property flooding the market, the resale market is practically non-existent.

So do not buy in the expectation of quick profits, or even treat the cost as an investment. If you have to sell soon after buying, you are unlikely to recoup your initial investment. Nobody will pay that price for a second hand home if a new one is available for the same money.

The converse of that is that if you are prepared to forgo a newly built property, you could well find a bargain in the resale market.

Abbey's loans reverse the trend

the middle of last month from 9.8 to 9.5 per cent, the Abbey will extend the new lower rate to existing customers.

"We thought it was important to treat everyone the same," said Stuart Gowan, Abbey's information officer.

The Abbey is following a line taken by other building societies. For instance, the Woolwich sets mortgages of more than £60,000 at 9.25 per cent — a guaranteed 0.35 percentage points below standard rate for five years. Leeds Permanent mortgages of more than £50,000 are reduced from a standard rate of 9.8 to 9.4 per cent, and at the Britannia Building Society larger loans are at 9.45 per cent, guaranteed to stay 0.3 percentage points below the standard rate for two years.

The Scarborough Building Society has a mortgage and home insurance package for mortgages of more than £40,000. Folio mortgages cost 9.2 per cent and involve taking out a Legal & General endowment policy. The funds come from the Dutch bank, Algemeene Bank Nederland.

VG

Buildings insurance is £1.35 per £1,000 of cover and there is competitive contents insurance as well.

● A new way for elderly homeowners to release the capital value of their property has been launched by the Walthamstow Building Society.

The new roll-up loan allows borrowers to take up to 40 per cent of the value of their home in cash. They do not have to pay back any of the capital or interest until the debt reaches 60 per cent of the value of the property. Then just interest payments become due, unless further revaluation of the property proves it has increased in value to cover at least 60 per cent of the debt.

The Yorkshire Building Society is trying to develop a roll-up mortgage along the same lines but it wants to insure the scheme so that there is no question of having to make repayments at all.

If a loan had been taken out in 1970 worth 30 per cent of the value of a house, the debt would have fallen to 27 per cent of the value of the property by 1987.

But suppose house prices rise by just 5 per cent and mortgages average 11 per cent — then a 30 per cent loan would climb to 60 per cent of the value of the property in 12 years and 120 per cent in 25 years. With no rises in house prices at all, the debt would climb to 60 per cent of the value in just six years.

The catch in your car cover

Most people who suffer a theft from their car will discover the glaring gaps in their insurance cover.

Even motorists who believed they were fully covered by comprehensive car insurance will discover that many items regularly carried on journeys will not be replaced because some insurance companies restrict claims to £50.

If a car window is broken during the theft, it will normally be replaced without any effect on the no-claims bonus. However, a claim for car contents will jeopardize the no-claims bonus unless you have bonus protection.

So if you have a break-in, the solution is to claim for broken windows on the car policy but to look to the all-risks section of your home contents policy to cover the stolen items.

General Accident, Britain's largest vehicle insurer, limits car contents claims to £50. For a driver with a camera and the usual photographic extras, stereo tapes and perhaps a coat and pair of shoes, this sum goes nowhere near replacing the theft. A weekend's shopping can easily be worth more than £50.

Many other companies — such as Commercial Union, Eagle Star, Legal & General, London & Edinburgh, Minster and Norwich Union — have a car contents ceiling of £100, which is still well below the real value of the contents that should be insured.

Even within these levels, there may be restrictions. London & Edinburgh, whose policies are sold through insurance brokers, limit the maximum cover for "audio communication equipment" to £250, even though it is part of

the vehicle's "declared" value. The company will increase the cover for such "permanent" extras to £500 for an extra £8 premium.

The basic premise is that the insurance company will cover the declared value of the car, including its non-portable extras such as the radio and stereo cassette, plus a limited amount described as "personal effects", such as a rug, a raincoat and a briefcase.

If additional permanent features, such as a car telephone, are added later, inform the company, which will usually note it on the policy without an additional premium.

The policies generally exclude jewellery and furs, as well as money and securities. Goods or samples carried in connection with a trade or profession will also not be covered.

The way to cover car contents effectively is twofold. First, all additions to the vehicle should be noted on the policy as part of the overall declared value. Secondly, any likely car contents should be included in the home policy. This means increasing the level of insurance for the home contents and ensuring the section that permits goods to be taken away from the premises is raised to the appropriate level.

If you suffer a car theft, claim on the home contents policy. Although this insurance is dearer than car cover — often £4.50 per £100 insured in London and £1 to £1.50 in non-Metropolitan areas — it does mean that you are protected and, in the event of a claim, your no-claims bonus is not lost.

Conal Gregory

Maude rejects new credit card curbs

Greater competition in the credit card market was welcomed this week by Francis Maude, Junior Trade and Industry Minister.

Mr Maude told a London conference that it would be wrong not to impose restrictions on the availability of credit to protect a small proportion of borrowers who overstretch themselves. He said consumers should be as careful in shopping around for credit as they are for their weekly groceries. In the past major lenders had been able to charge high interest rates because people had not been prepared to seek out the best deal, he said.

"But," he said, "not before time, there are encouraging signs that this is changing and that competition on interest rates is starting to become a reality."

The big two credit cards in the UK — Access and Visa — both have annual percentage rates of about 23 but Mr Maude said he welcomed the decisions of financial services group Save & Prosper and Chase Manhattan Bank to offer cards at lower rates of about 17 per cent.

"I understand that in the near future major building societies may also follow suit," he added.

A credit card chief executive told delegates that borrowers are able to understand the implications of taking credit and do not need to be protected from themselves.

"There are large numbers of people whose standards of living have been improved through the provision of credit, people who have no difficulty in managing the credit they choose to take," said Peter Ellwood, of Barclaycard.

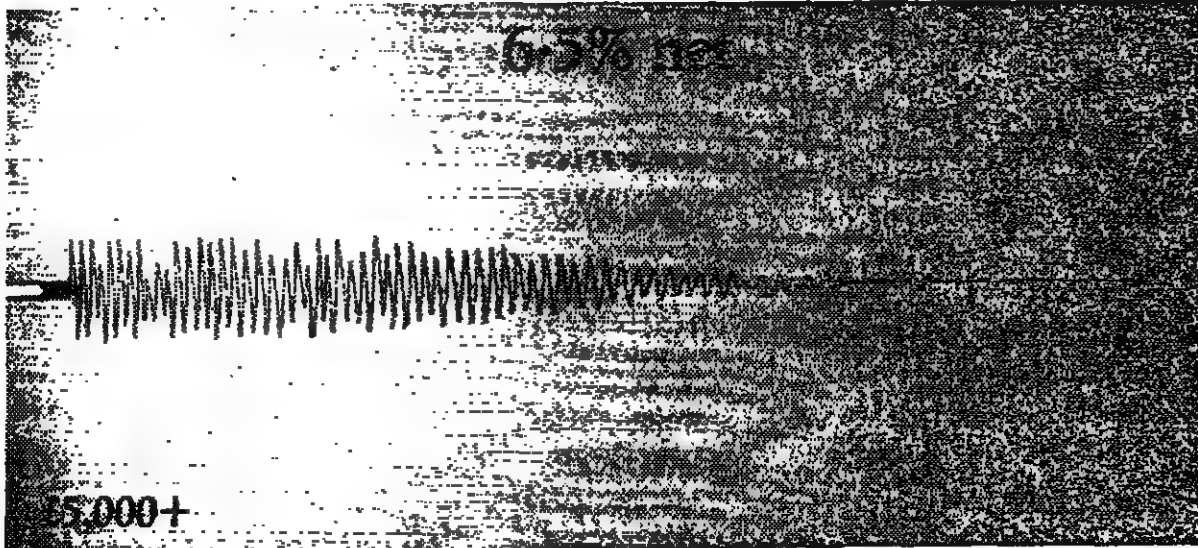
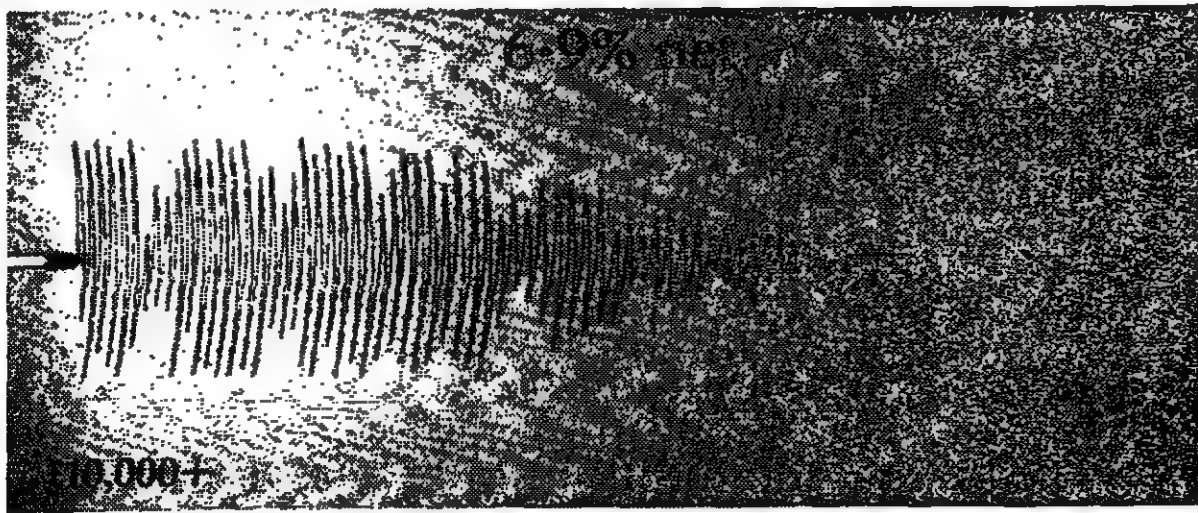
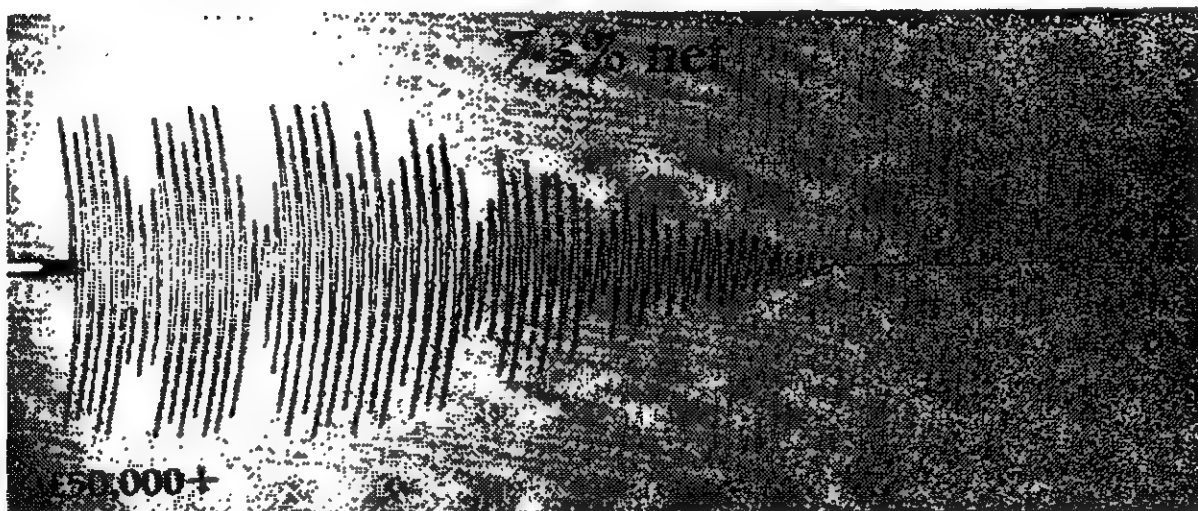
He told the conference, organized by the Money Management Council and Lovell White Durrant, a City law firm, that such people were the vast majority of Britain's 20 million credit card holders. However, he acknowledged that issuers have a duty not to give cards and set credit limits in an irresponsible fashion. Failure to assess the suitability of an applicant and set an appropriate credit limit is a disservice to the longer-term interests of the card issuer and the applicant, he said.

Credit card issuers maintain that only about 1 per cent of customers run into repayment problems. About 45 per cent of cardholders repay in full every month and therefore incur no interest payments. Of the remainder, the average interest actually paid is around 17 per cent.

The card issuers operate scoring systems to ascertain creditworthiness, taking into account the employment record, stability of the home address, bank references and whether the applicant holds any other form of credit.

Rosemary Unsworth
Retail Affairs Correspondent

"When Lloyds Bank upped the interest on savings, the effect was felt as far away as my building society."



Like many people, you may be interested to hear that Lloyds Bank now offers higher interest on savings.

The kind of interest normally associated with building societies.

To get these high rates, you need to invest your money in a Lloyds Bank Investment Account.

It's a savings account that works in tiers.

For instance, a deposit of £5,000 or more gives 6.5% net.

While £10,000 plus will haul you in 6.9% net.

Finally, £50,000 will get you the top rate of interest of 7.3% net.

Alternatively, with £50,000 or more you could opt for the unique three month term Bond option.

This will earn you a massive 9.0% gross (no tax deducted).

So how will all this good news for savers affect the building societies?

Well, they'll probably be shattered.

To: Mark Jones, Lloyds Bank Plc, FREEPOST, London SE1 2YZ.

I enclose a cheque for £_____ payable to Lloyds Bank Plc, to open an investment account at _____ Branch. I understand that the minimum initial investment is £5,000 and that interest rates may vary.

Branch Address: _____

(Tick box below if Bond option required)

☐ I wish to open the account under the Bond option scheme (minimum £50,000). I understand that the amount will be invested for a fixed term of three months from the date of deposit and converted at maturity and each succeeding anniversary for further fixed terms of three months until you receive notice of repayment in writing at least seven days before maturity.

Please send a brochure containing full information and a detailed application form for me, to be completed and returned to my branch.

Full name(s) Mr/Ms/Mrs _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Date _____

Signed _____ T2



THE THOROUGHbred BANK.

Interest payable annually. Interest rates may vary. Withdrawal at 3 months notice or immediately with a charge of 50p per £100 withdrawn for each month's notice not given. No interest rates are quoted for liability to basic rate Income Tax. Lloyds Bank Plc is a member of MIB.

FAMILY MONEY/5

Higher Lloyds charges

Lloyds Bank has raised the charges it imposes for processing deposits and withdrawals on current accounts that are overdrawn.

The bank now charges 30p, up from 25p, for every debit or credit once an account goes into the red. The monthly fee for being in the red stays at £1.

Unlike its main high street rivals, Lloyds calculates charges every month, instead of every quarter. This means that for the person who goes into overdraft for only a few days every quarter, Lloyds will probably work out cheaper than the other banks, which charge for a whole quarter even if the account is overdrawn for just a few days.

The increase in charges at Lloyds follows rises at the Midland in March and the TSB in April.

Midland now charges 30p for standing orders and cheques and 27p for automatic teller machine withdrawals and direct debits. There is a quarterly charge of £3 for being in the red.

TSB charges 29p per debit and a quarterly fee of £3. The National Westminster charges 28p for debits and £3 quarterly and Barclays 29p and £3.

A little way off the high street, the Co-op Bank charges 36p for credits and debits while the soon-to-be-privatized National Girobank charges 85p for debits. But Girobank calculates charges on a daily basis, rather than monthly or quarterly, and it says this means charges over a period will probably be less than at the other banks.

Neither the Abbey National Building Society nor the Nationwide Anglia charges for debits or credits while customers are overdrawn on their current accounts.

The overdraft charges are higher than the banks' but research by the magazine *Building Society Choice* earlier this year, using a "typical" couple periodically going into overdraft, showed they would make money on the building society account but would be paying up to £80 a year in charges at the high street banks.

Maria Scott

Unexpected tax problems can arise when businesses change hands. WALTER SINCLAIR, who has co-written a book for guidance, offers some advice.

Valuable reliefs are available against Capital Gains Tax and Inheritance Tax, the two main taxes involved when you pass on your business. The reliefs are even better after the 1988 Budget, but the taxpayer may still take more than his share unless you follow the rules.

Capital Gains Tax applies whether you sell or give away your business. However, a gifts election may be made in writing to your tax inspector, signed by yourself and the recipient of every gift. The result is that any capital gains are "held over" until the recipients sell.

If you keep your business until you die, no Capital Gains Tax applies. However, ultimately an Inheritance Tax liability is likely.

Capital Gains Tax is now charged at income tax rates - 25 and 40 per cent. However, business retirement relief may be available. Broadly, you qualify if you have reached 60 and dispose of your business by gift or sale. You also obtain the relief on the disposal of part of your business.

The maximum is £125,000, subject to the rules. If the business is given, not sold, retirement relief is used up first before gifts relief is applied.

On April 6 further relief became available. The slice of total gains between £125,000 and £500,000 is halved before tax is charged. Thus, if you are a 40 per cent taxpayer aged 60 and sell your business making a gain of £425,000, the first £125,000 is tax-free and you pay 40 per cent on £300,000 - that is, £60,000 - assuming you have already used your £50,000 annual exemption.

The relief applies only to gains on the "chargeable business assets" of your business. These include assets used for your trade and goodwill but not investments or trading stock, debtors and cash.

You need not retire to obtain the relief. However, if you retire younger than 60 for health reasons, you will qualify. A medical certificate is generally needed, stating that you are likely to remain incapable of performing your previous work.

Retirement relief covers

How to keep the business in the family

sole traders, partnerships and shares in your "family company". Your family company is one in which you have 25 per cent of the voting rights or your immediate family has at least 50 per cent, including 5 per cent held by yourself. Furthermore, you need to be a full-time working director.

The "chargeable business assets" restriction also applies to shares in your family company. Only a fraction of the gain on your shares qualifies for the relief, depending on the company's chargeable business assets compared with its total chargeable assets.

To obtain the full relief, you

if you are approaching 60, delay disposing of your business until you reach that age. If you have reached 60 but worked in your business for less than 10 years, continue working to obtain full relief. Maximize the proportion of chargeable business assets in your company. And work sufficient hours to be treated as a "whole-time working director".

An alternative to selling your shares or giving them to your family is to sell them back to the company. In appropriate circumstances, this can have the double advantage of providing you



must have owned your business for at least 10 years. Similarly, you need to have worked as a full-time working director of your family company for 10 years. Otherwise, you obtain 10 per cent full relief for every year that the appropriate condition has been satisfied.

If your spouse also complies with the requirements, you are both eligible for the relief. Thus you have a maximum of £250,000 qualifying for full Capital Gains Tax relief, with £750,000 attracting 50 per cent relief.

Simple planning can maximize the relief. For example,

with some cash and keeping the company controlled by your family.

Subject to Inland Revenue approval, selling back your shares will be subject to Capital Gains Tax. Otherwise, it would be taxed as a distribution, much in the same way as a dividend. Detailed professional advice is essential. For one thing, the company must be permitted by its articles of association to buy back its own shares.

Subject to the normal rules, provided your gain on selling your shares back to the company is chargeable to Capital Gains Tax, retirement relief will be available against it.

If you do nothing, your entire business interest will ultimately come within the Inheritance Tax net. If you leave the business assets to your spouse, no Inheritance Tax would normally be payable at that stage, but the tax will bite when he or she dies.

However, much eventual tax can be saved if you give your business or company shares to your family at an earlier stage.

Valuable business relief applies for Inheritance Tax purposes. This covers gifts during your lifetime and business property passing on death.

Business property includes a business or part of a business, certain shareholdings as noted below, and land, buildings, plant and machinery used in your partnership or in a company that you control. Shares in investment companies and land or shareholdings in companies do not generally qualify.

You must have owned the business property, or property that directly replaced it, for at least two years before the gift. The relief is given by reducing the value of the assets for Inheritance Tax purposes as follows:

- The whole or part of a business, 50 per cent
- Company shares valued on a control basis, 50 per cent
- Holdings of more than 25 per cent in an unquoted trading company, 50 per cent
- Property transferred by you that is used in a trade by a company controlled by you or your partnership, 30 per cent
- Shareholdings of 25 per cent and less in an unquoted trading company.

Business property relief is available against any "potentially exempt transfers" (PETs) that fall into charge after the donor's death within seven years. However, the relief is lost if the recipient disposes of the property before the donor's death. Similarly, the property must remain "relevant business property" during the period.

To avoid losing the relief, it is permissible to replace the original gifted business property with other qualifying assets within one year. The relief is proportionally reduced if the conditions are satisfied for only part of the property.

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'Stockwatcher' winner

Colin McLean, right, knows what he wants to do with the £2,000 worth of Equitable Life unit trusts he has won in *The Times Stockwatcher* competition.

Mr McLean's first child, a son, was born two weeks ago, and he says: "I think I will be registering the unit trusts in his name."

He expects to select trusts

that aim for long-term capital growth.

Mr McLean, a reinsurance broker, has had a portfolio of shares and unit trusts for about 15 years.

The portfolio is managed by a stockbroker but Mr McLean says he and his wife Alison monitor the investments closely.



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Queen's Bench Division

Law Report June 11 1988

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Arbitration documents can be disclosed in litigation

Shearson Lehman Brothers Inc and Others v Maclean Watson & Co Ltd and Others (No 3) [Before Mr Justice Webster (Judgment June 9)]

There was no policy reason for a court to hold that documents produced in the course of a private arbitration should not be disclosed in subsequent public litigation to a party who was not a party to the arbitration.

Mr Justice Webster so held in the Commercial Court, after hearing a commercial summons in open court, on granting the plaintiff's application for disclosure of the pleadings in the arbitration, documents produced by way of evidence, the transcript of the evidence given and the award.

Mr Ian Glick, QC, for the plaintiffs, Mr Richard Aikens, QC and Mr Adrian Hughes for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE WEBSTER said on May 12, 1988 the plaintiffs issued a summons against the defendants in which they applied for an order that the defendants disclose to the plaintiffs all the documents in their custody and possession relating to the arbitration proceedings.

The documents which were in issue were the pleadings in the

arbitration, any documents produced by way of evidence in the course of the arbitration, the transcript of the evidence given and the award.

There was no dispute as to the relevance to the instant action of the documents listed and Mr Aikens accepted that there could be no argument that there was legal professional privilege as any such protection was lost once the documents were disclosed in the arbitration.

The question was whether the court should as a matter of policy hold that the documents produced in the course of a private arbitration be disclosed in subsequent public litigation in the absence of consent. There was no authority directly in point.

Mr Aikens relied on *Distillers Co (Biochemicals) Ltd v Times Newspapers Ltd* [1975] QB 680, *Ridgway v Times Newspapers Ltd* [1977] QB 881, *Home Office v Harman* [1983] 1 AC 280 and *Crest Homes plc v Marks* [1987] AC 829.

In all those cases the documents in question were held to be protected as the disclosure had taken place during the process of discovery or as a result of an *Anson* Pillar order.

The clear reasoning in those decisions was that it would be

contrary to the interests of justice if parties were discouraged from making a full and frank disclosure because of an apprehension that the documents might be used by parties who were not parties to the litigation in question.

Mr Aikens submitted that the same principle should be applied so as to protect the privacy and confidentiality of an arbitration.

However, in his Lordship's view the considerations were very different.

Discovery was a process of involuntary disclosure. Documents produced in the course of an arbitration were given voluntarily. His Lordship could see no significant risk that parties to an arbitration would be inhibited by the apprehension of possible subsequent use by other parties in subsequent litigation.

In coming to that conclusion his Lordship took into account the fact that the courts would not wish to do anything to cause foreign litigants to fear using English arbitration proceedings.

All discovery involved an invasion of privacy. Arbitration had no special privacy or confidentiality which entitled parties to the protection Mr Aikens sought to assert.

Solicitors: Simmons & Simmons; Allen & Overly.

Simpson and Others v Simpson and Another [Before Mr Justice Morritt (Judgment May 27)]

A presumption of undue influence might arise, even though the parties were husband and wife, in particular circumstances of dependency coupled with mutual trust.

His Lordship, having found that in any event certain transactions and transfers purported to have been effected by Professor Cedric Keith Simpson shortly before his death were made at a time when he lacked sufficient mental capacity to carry them out, went on, in case he was wrong on that point, to consider undue influence and reject a submission that no such presumption could ever arise between husband and wife.

The plaintiffs were the professor's three children by his first marriage. The first defendant was his third wife, Dr Janet Simpson. The second defendant, Mr Quinton, the professor's solicitor, took no part in the action save to give evidence.

Mr Roger Cooke for the plaintiffs, Mr Richard de Lacy and Miss Anne Wakefield for Dr Simpson.

MR JUSTICE MORRITT said that the action concerned the validity and effect of certain

dispositions which Professor Simpson, emeritus professor at Guy's Medical Hospital, had made between April 20 and May 11, 1985. He had died on July 21, 1985 aged 78 as a consequence of a malignant brain tumour, symptoms of which first appeared in December 1984.

In contemplation of his third marriage, the professor made his last will on June 2, 1982, by which, after various legacies, he left his residuary estate to pay the income to his wife for life and subject thereto, as to income and capital, in equal shares if more than one for such of the plaintiffs as should survive him and Dr Simpson with a survivorship interest in favour of the children of such of the plaintiffs as did not so survive.

The professor underwent an operation on March 11, 1985 followed by a course of radiotherapy, first as an in-patient and after March 22 as an out-patient. From that date until May 11, except for a brief period between April 18 and 20, he was dependent for all his needs on his wife.

Evidence showed that he was most concerned not to be sent back to hospital and that he depended on her willingness and ability to keep him at home.

The transactions of which the plaintiffs complained comprised a letter dated April 21 asking Mr Quinton to arrange that half the proceeds of the professor's house, Dancer's

BASKETBALL

Moxey's move is the signal for sale

By Nicholas Harling

Home and Watford Haring, the club that has been subjected to its fill of rumours over the years of takeover bids and financial crises, are up for sale. Three parties are believed to be interested in the purchase now that the coach and joint owner, Jez Moxey, is moving to Scotland to become general manager of Glasgow Rangers, who have taken over Kingston.

With the other joint owner, Andy McGovern, intending to stay in the United States after completing his studies at the University of Southern California, there seems little point in Moxey remaining with the Royals once he has received a "fantastic offer," to go to Ibrox. "We hope to negotiate the final agreement within the next week or so, but we are leaving the club in a very stable condition," Moxey said.

"After much consideration, Andy and I decided that we had taken the club as far as we could. In order for the club to develop, it requires additional financial backing to the degree that we can't readily provide. We felt it was in the best interests to give the opportunity to another party."

Rangers will also certainly have the services of Kevin Cadogan, the coach, from the United States, and ended speculation over his future by rejecting an offer from the French club, Lorient, in order to return to Scotland where he originally made his name with Celtic.

Manchester United, who have just changed their name to Manchester Eagles, have signed Curtis Xavier, the guard, from the Los Angeles Lakers, and will play alongside Will Brown, from the United States, who returns after taking a year off from the game after a dispute with the former coach, Joe Whelton.

SQUASH

Dryhurst upset by Poole

By Colin McQuillan

Established reputations in the Midlands means little if results in the regional semi-finals of the Duxford championship of champions tournament are a guide. Becky Poole, aged 18, the Worcester No. 1 from Arrow County Club, defeated Best Dryhurst 9-6, 9-7, 5-9 to take a place in the regional final against Jane Moore, of Richmond, Staffordshire, who defeated Lesley Sturgess 9-0, 5-9, 9-5, 7-9, 9-7, Dryhurst, a confident and skilful player, was out of her depth in a competitive match.

Sturgess was the national finalist last year. In the men's semi-finals at Birmingham, Kevin Higgins, aged 17, of Shifnal, easily dismissed John Parker, of Newmarket, 9-7, 10-8, 9-1 to reach his second successive final against Jason Walker, of North Derby, who survived five furious games with Rustin Bativalan, of Eboracaster Priory.

The Midlands winners will travel to Edinburgh for tomorrow's later-regionals final against their counterparts in Scotland, where the seedings were disturbed only by the fact that five games and 68-minute regional semi-final defeat of Costas Yarrow, the second seed.

Douglas Rutherford defeated Gregor Thompson in the second men's semi-final, while the women's regional semi-finals Alison Cruickshank defeated Lisa Davis and Joan Sutherland triumphed over Ann Brotherton.

RESULTS: Regional semi-finals: Men: Higgins (Shifnal) 9-7, 10-8, 9-1, Scotland; Parker (Newmarket) 9-7, 10-8, 9-1, Scotland; Higgins (Shifnal) 9-7, 10-8, 9-1, Scotland; Parker (Newmarket) 9-7, 10-8, 9-1, Scotland; Higgins (Shifnal) 9-7, 10-8, 9-1, Scotland; Parker (Newmarket) 9-7, 10-8, 9-1, Scotland.

FOOTBALL

European championship Group one

Denmark v Spain (at Hanover, 2.30)

CRICKET

Brilliant Assistance Championship

11.0, 11.0 over minimum

DENT: Derbyshire v Gloucestershire.

ILFRID: Essex v Sussex.

TRENT BRIDGE: Warwickshire v Glamorgan.

BATH: Somerset v Warwickshire.

THE OVAL: Surrey v Lancashire.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Worcestershire v Hampshire.

TODAY: 11.0 to 6.30, 9.0 over minimum.

NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v West Indies.

Other matches: 11.30 to 6.30.

SPORT ON TV

AMERICAN BASKETBALL: BBC1 12.0 p.m. (tomorrow) Conference Championship play-off.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL: 1988 ITV 4 p.m. (tomorrow) Kansas v Oklahoma.

GRANDSTAND: BBC1 12.15-6.30 p.m. Rugby League: Australia v Great Britain: Highlights from Sydney, Sydney, 11.0 p.m. The Irish in Scotland: Football: European championship: Denmark v Spain, live coverage from Queen's Park, Glasgow, 11.0 p.m. Coverage of semi-finals from Queen's Park, Glasgow, 11.0 p.m.

RUGBY LEAGUE: BBC1 12.0 p.m. New Zealand v Great Britain: Highlights of the second Test from Auckland, 11.0 p.m.

TENNIS: BBC1 10.50 p.m. Stella Arzuffi championships: Highlights of final from Queen's Club, 11.0 p.m.

RUGBY UNION: BRITISH SIDES ATTEMPT TO STEM INTERNATIONAL DEFEATS

Ominous time for baptism

From Chris Tiam Auckland

Can any Welsh player realistically believe that Wales can beat the All Blacks today? Probably not, and that makes their task even more difficult in trying circumstances in the second international match after the drama of the first.

The four newcomers in the Welsh side, Kevin Moseley, Gary Jones, Jonathan Griffiths and Nigel Davies, could not have chosen more inauspicious circumstances for their international baptism.

Of the four, only Jonathan Griffiths has been a genuine contender for international honours before, with his Llanelli clubmate, Davies, also on the fringe of selection.

But that elusive first cap

would have still been denied both of them had the injury to the lower and Robert Jones, the regular international match scrum half, been in his top form.

Both players are gifted handlers of the ball as well as hard, physical players with a healthy appetite for close-quarter play.

"I enjoy the physical side of the game. I simply get pleasure from knocking opponents down," Jonathan Griffiths, the scrum half, aged 23, said.

Davies said: "We have to tackle everything that moves. I'm aware that Stanley is their scrum half so I have to put him down with the first tackle, though I would rather prefer to run at the All Blacks with the ball in hand."

"We have to go out there

and take the game to them, not one or two, but all of us," Griffiths said. "We have nothing to lose now that everyone has written us off. At the end of the day, tackling is about motivation and commitment."

Both players find the New Zealand game a far more committed and fring version of the Welsh game.

Davies said: "Back home you pace yourself in a game, you take it easy and then develop. The pace here is faster and the game harder. It is an all-out battle from the word 'go'. They are fitter than us and their approach to the game is more professional."

"Back home the fiery exchanges take place early on in the first quarter of the game then things settle," Griffiths

said. "Here they don't let you settle at all. Simply, we're not used to this type of commitment back home."

Both Griffiths and Davies are desperately keen to prove wrong all those who have accused the Welsh of everything from ineptitude to lack of bottle.

"We've been advised to take the first plane home rather than play in the second Test," Griffiths said. "Our pride has suffered a lot and we just want to go out there to do ourselves a bit of justice."

Sadly, the underlying feeling of helplessness of the Welsh was summed up by Davies, who, when asked if he genuinely believed that Wales could win, answered diplomatically: "No comment."

Cooke in running for Lions

The manager of the British Lions party to tour Australia

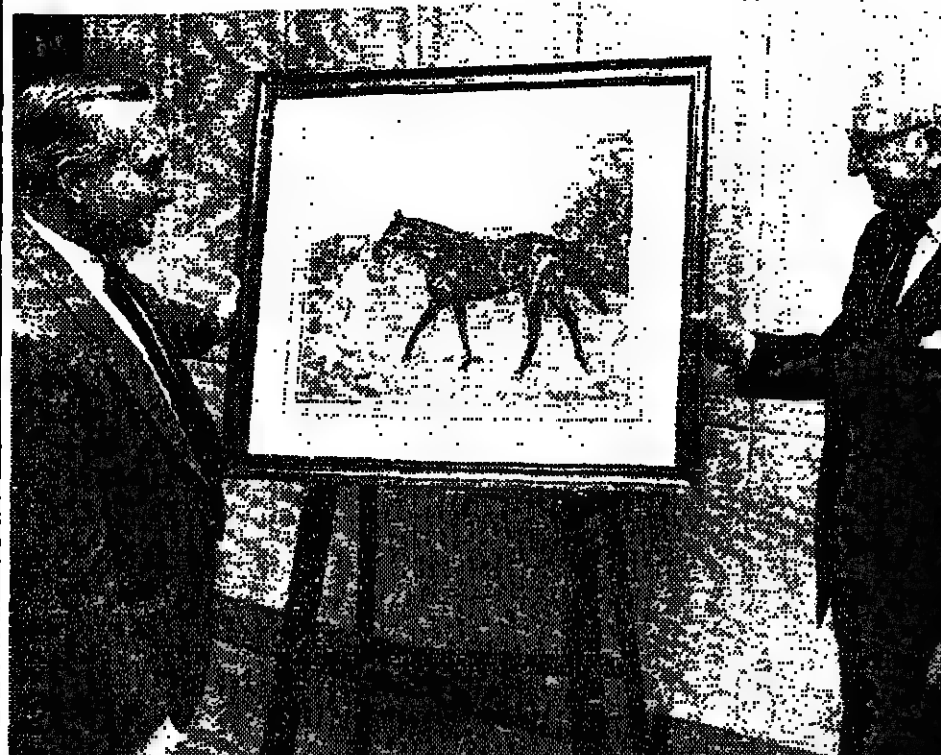
next year is scheduled to be discussed by the four home unions' tour committee in the middle of next month, and England will presumably put forward the name of Geoff Cooke, their team manager, as one of the candidates (David Hands writes).

Cooke's experience on the present tour would obviously be in his favour, though previous Lions managements have tended - not invariably - to be drawn from former international players, which Cooke is not. Other candidates for the post are believed to include Clive Rowlands (Wales), who managed the Lions in the International Rugby Football Board centenary match two years ago, and Ken Smith (Scotland).

Both played international rugby. Rowlands at scrum half and Smith at flanker, the latter's career including a Lions tour to New Zealand in 1959. Rowlands has also coached and managed Wales. The dates for the 13-match tour have yet to be decided but a June and July schedule has been suggested in Australia, who are trying to agree with New Zealand's domestic arrangements in the hope of fielding the best available combination in the final tour match, between the Lions and an All Blacks (the name has yet to be confirmed) XV.

Many of the players will be watching Great Britain's Rugby League international at the new Sydney Sports Ground, and it has been suggested that, if Australia take their anticipated victory, it will stir the Wallabies to do even better against England 24 hours later. In their last two tours abroad, England have won the final Test in 1953 and 1959 (New Zealand in 1953) and 35-9 (South Africa in 1954); they may fail in their ambition to become the first England team to beat Australia on their own ground, but the margin should be much closer than that.

Geoff Cooke: England choice



Louis Freedman (right), owner-breeder of Reference Point, is presented with an oil painting of his 1987 Derby winner by Michael Reynolds, director of public affairs for Courage Brewery, who held its racehorse owners awards luncheon yesterday. Freedman won last season's Flat accolade, while the 1987-88 National Hunt award will go to Juliet Reed, owner of Rhyme 'N' Reason, winner of this year's Grand National.

Riviere D'Or ready to capture French Oaks

From Our French Racing Correspondent, Paris

The clash between Indian Skimmer and Miesque created widespread interest in last year's Prix de Diane Hermes, and this year's running, at Chantilly tomorrow, inevitably suffers by comparison.

Nevertheless, with home-trained favourite Riviere D'Or and the unbeaten Irish Guineas heroine Trusted Partner heading the 16-strong field, supported by Norland and Bill Watts's Jungle Gold, the £140,000 first prize is sure to take some winning.

Trusted Partner has yet to taste defeat in three starts, and was most impressive on her seasonal reappearance when taking the Goffs Irish 1,000 Guineas.

Dermot Weld's daughter of Affirmed has great speed and, if she can reproduce that turn of foot over this 10½-furlong trip, must figure in the finish. Her full sister, Easy To Copy, won at 12 furlongs so connections are more than hopeful that Trusted Partner can take a second classic.

Jungle Gold was two lengths third at the Curragh, and had previously finished fifth behind Ravienna, beaten a good deal further, in the Newmarket classic. There is no reason to suppose that she can

reverse the form with Trusted Partner, and a place is the best she can hope for.

Riviere D'Or won the Prix Saint-Alary last time over this trip, and Critique Head wisely side-stepped a clash with Diminuendo in the Espous Oaks. Riviere D'Or's pedigree, by Lypard out of Gold River, has classic winner written all over it, and the imposing chestnut is fully entitled to start favourite.

Norland, from the all-conquering Andre Fabre stable, was closing all the time when chasing home Riviere D'Or in the Saint-Alary, and is only racing for the third time in her life here. However, this lack of experience may count against her in this big field, and Riviere D'Or can win another filly's classic for Critique Head.

Later in the afternoon, Michael Jarvis saddles Just A Flutter (Bruce Raymond) for the £18,820 Prix du Chemin de Fer du Nord, over a mile, and the four-year-old has place chances.

At Evry today, Grand Tour (Paul Cook) contests the £40,142 Grand Prix d'Evry over 12 furlongs. Andre Fabre's Village Star will start a strong favourite and cannot be opposed.

CHANTILLY TOMORROW

Going: good to soft

2.20 PRIX DE DIANE HERMES (Group 1): 3-Y-O fillies: £140,000: 1m 2½f (16 runners)

1-12 NORLAND 21 (GB) (Shahin Mohammed) A Pire 9-2. C. Ammon 18. 13-14 JUNGLE GOLD 22 (GB) (J. Alton) J. W. Watts (GB) 9-2. P. Eddery 18. 15-16 TRUSTED PARTNER 21 (GB) (J. Alton) J. W. Watts (GB) 9-2. P. Eddery 18. 17-18 RIVIERE D'OR 21 (GB) (J. Alton) J. W. Watts (GB) 9-2. P. Eddery 18. 19-20 EASY TO COPY 21 (GB) (J. Alton) J. W. Watts (GB) 9-2. P. Eddery 18. 21-22 SUMMER TRIP 21 (GB) (J. Alton) J. W. Watts (GB) 9-2. P. Eddery 18. 23-24 LIGHT THE LIGHTS 21 (GB) (J. Alton) J. W. Watts (GB) 9-2. P. Eddery 18. 25-26 JUNGLE GOLD 21 (GB) (J. Alton) J. W. Watts (GB) 9-2. P. Eddery 18. 27-28 RIVIERE D'OR 21 (GB) (J. Alton) J. W. Watts (GB) 9-2. P. Eddery 18. 29-30 TRUSTED PARTNER 21 (GB) (J. Alton) J. W. Watts (GB) 9-2. P. Eddery 18. 31-32 SUMMER TRIP 21 (GB) (J. Alton) J. W. Watts (GB) 9-2. P. Eddery 18. 33-34 LIGHT THE LIGHTS 21 (GB) (J. Alton) J. W. Watts (GB) 9-2. P. Eddery 18. 35-36 JUNGLE GOLD 21 (GB) (J. Alton) J. W. Watts (GB) 9-2. P. Eddery 18. 37-38 RIVIERE D'OR 21 (GB) (J. 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W. Watts (GB) 9-2.

Eddery poised for winning return

By Michael Phillips
(Michael Phillips)
Pat Eddery can celebrate his return to active duty after a four-day suspension by landing a double at York today on *Weldnaas* (2.15) and *Cadeaux Genereux* (3.45), both of whom are owned by Sheikh Maknoon Al-Maktoum.

Now that he has decided to return to France at the end of the year, Olivier Douieb will be doubly keen to make his final season in England one to remember.

He can begin by capturing the William Hill Golden Spurs Trophy with *Cadeaux Genereux*, who was such an impressive winner of a similar race at Newmarket three weeks ago.

I cannot fancy Panda

Prince, the runner-up that day, even though he will be meeting *Cadeaux Genereux* on 5th better terms for 2½ lengths. Although he surely has a better chance at these weights than those above *Cadeaux Genereux* in the handicap.

Eddery expects to begin the day well by winning the EBF Duchess Of Kent Stakes on *Weldnaas*.

Considered unbeatable at Newmarket first time out and backed accordingly, this colt by *Diessis* eventually had to make do with second place behind *Stone Flake*, another product of the same successful stallion. However, there was an excuse that day as he was lame behind afterwards.

The form, as it stands, may

well prove good enough because *Stone Flake* is considered to be Royal Ascot material by his trainer, Paul Kelleway, who has never been guilty of guesswork.

In the circumstances, it will be bitterly disappointing if *Weldnaas* fails to win this time, and he is my nap.

Trainer Ben Hanbury can be extremely hopeful of also winning the Michael Sobell Handicap with *Beau Sher*, who still managed to score by six lengths at Haydock a week ago even though *Willie Caron* spent most of the last furlong pulling him up. A mere 5lb penalty should not stop him now.

Henry Cecil is another trainer with doubly good prospects at York this afternoon.

Following a series of good gallops at Newmarket, *Smart Performer* can live up to his name by making a winning debut in the Charles and Edward St George Stakes.

Half-an-hour after they have sponsored that race the same two brothers should be on the receiving end, thanks to *Mecubbin* in the Queen Mother's Cup. *Mecubbin* has plenty in hand on the book.

Having beaten older horses at Redcar recently when he landed the Zetland Gold Cup, *Frieda* should be up to coping with his own age group in the Daniel Penn Royal Yorkshire Stakes.

Stable companion *Milk Thistle* will be fancied for the Vernon Fillics Stakes after showing so much promise at

Goodwood. Yet I still feel that it would be wrong not to give *Timely*, who has run so well in top-class company, just one more chance at this lower level.

At Sandown, make a note of Reg Akehurst's pair *Starm Force* (4.30) and *Castle Heights* (5.35), as they attempt to land a double for the consistently successful trainer from South Hatch in Epsom. Both were victorious last time and both look capable of scoring again in this sort of company.

Also, it might be worth giving *Pontenave* another chance in the Baker Lorenz Maiden Stakes even though he was a costly failure at York last month when failing to beat *Junayz*.

Litston can lift title in grand finale

Point-to-point
By Brian Beel

The final point-to-point of the season takes place today at Underhill with the Torrington Farmers meeting. An entry of 120 has been received for the six races.

With only the women's title still to be decided, *Jeannifer Litston* has been declared to partner *Gerry Doyle* from the choice of four horses, which included three normally ridden by Philip Schofield.

Gerry Doyle, under Jane Southcombe, finished second behind *Mendip Express* last week and will probably be better suited to the course than *Amant*. *Harwood's runner*, *Harry Up Henry*.

Schofield has *Forces Castle*, *Golden Hornet* and *Sammy Lax* entered also in both the adjacent and the open as it would be no surprise to see him take his total winners for the season to 37. After his maiden race win last week, *Amant* will follow up in the restricted, while the runner-up in his last *Straw Down*, *Carving Knife*, could go one better in today's maiden race.

Jeannifer, who has been running well in good company lately, should give favorite backers a second try in the Members.

TODAY'S MEETING: Torrington Farmers, 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 3.00pm, 4.00pm, 5.00pm, 6.00pm.

Half A Year ruled out of Royal Ascot

By Michael Seely
Racing Correspondent

Half A Year, last season's St James's Palace Stakes winner, misses Royal Ascot and the opportunity to take on Mito and Indian Skimmer in the Prince of Wales's Stakes on Tuesday.

Half A Year was decisively beaten by the three-year-old *Polar Gap* in a mile gallop across The Flat at Newmarket on Wednesday. Luca Cumani said yesterday: "There's nothing seriously wrong with the horse, but there's no point in tackling top-class opposition if he's not quite right."

One of the features of what promises to be a magnificent festival of racing could be the battle between Ray Cochrane, Cumani's jockey, and Steve Cauden for the coveted title of leading rider at Royal Ascot.

Apart from those on the opening afternoon, they include *Salse* (Jersey Stakes) and *Primitive Rising*, who will be out to give the stable its sixth win in the Gold Cup on Thursday.

The advance going is between good to firm and dry despite half an inch of rain on Wednesday night.



Ray Cochrane: powerful hand of Royal Ascot rides

ner, Carmelite House and Vincent O'Brien's pair *Prince of Bards* and *Caerwent* in the St James's Palace Stakes. *Polar Gap* goes for the King Edward VII Stakes on the same afternoon.

Henry Cecil, six times leading trainer at the meeting since 1979, will have his usual powerful ammunition for Cochrane. Apart from those on the opening afternoon, they include *Salse* (Jersey Stakes) and *Primitive Rising*, who will be out to give the stable its sixth win in the Gold Cup on Thursday.

The advance going is between good to firm and dry despite half an inch of rain on Wednesday night.

YORK

Selections

By Michael Seely

3.45 Cadeaux Genereux. 5.15 BEAU SHER (nap).

The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings: 5.15 BEAU SHER.

By Michael Seely

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The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings: 5.15 BEAU SHER.

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3.45 WILLIAM HILL GOLDEN SPURS TROPHY (Handicap) 3-Y-O:

22.57.85 (10) runners

1 (9) 0-00000 GOLDEN GARTER 7 (J.P. Goss) (7) Wm J. Goss 7-7 R.L. Tait 82

2 (11) 21-1222 SILVER PLUMB 21 (J.P. Goss) (7) Wm J. Goss 7-7 J. Maitland 84

3 (11) 22-0000 GOLDEN GARTER 7 (J.P. Goss) (7) Wm J. Goss 7-7 J. Maitland 84

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Robson's rearranged line-up could take the Republic of Ireland by surprise

Lineker joins growing casualty list

From Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent
Stuttgart

Forty-eight hours before England's own curtain rises on the European championship here against the Republic of Ireland, their scheduled training session was cancelled. Instead, the party went for a swim. Nobody drowned during the therapeutic exercise, but several members of the team have sunk into deep and troubled waters.

Bobby Robson, as he stood outside the casualty ward of England's rest-home yesterday, might have been a little more than a touch of a doctor. At least all of his words were dedicated to the prospect of the opening tie but to the health of his ailing patients.

England's manager did not attempt to disguise the depressing extent of the injuries, which (with the exception of Watson) all occurred during Thursday evening's final practice. Neither Lineker nor Steven nor Watson nor Wright is sure to be available. "Running repairs" are also being carried out on Beardsley, Stevens and Webb.

The line-up is shrouded by such a thick cloak of uncertainty that it will not be unveiled until shortly before the kick-off. "The ones causing us the most anxiety are the central defenders," Robson said. "Wright's pulled hamstring hampers him when he runs and Watson's leg hurts him when he stands still."

The replacement will be Stevens. Everton's right back has so far spent 45 minutes in

STUTTGART TEAMS

ENGLAND (probable)	IRE (probable)
1 P Shilton (Derby)	1 P Bonner (Celtic)
2 V Anderson (Man Utd)	2 C Morris (Celtic)
3 G Stevens (Everton)	3 C Hughton (Tottenham)
4 A Adams (Arsenal)	4 M McCarthy (Celtic)
5 K Sanson (Arsenal)	5 K Moran (Man Utd)
6 S Waddle (Tottenham)	6 R Whelan (Liverpool)
7 N Webb (Nottm Forest)	7 P McGrath (Man Utd)
8 B Robson (Man Utd, capt)	8 R Whelan (Liverpool)
9 J Barnes (Liverpool)	9 K Sheedy (Everton)
10 G Lineker (Barcelona)	10 J Aldridge (Liverpool)
11 G Beardsley (Liverpool)	11 F Stapleton (Derby)

Referee: S Kirschner (East Germany).

the close company of Adams — the second half of the 4-0 victory over Heilbronn on Thursday. He looked at least as comfortable there, albeit against moderate opposition, as the ebullient Watson or the rash Wright.

The rearrangement could indeed be as unexpected and as inspired as that which was enforced by the loss of Bryan Robson and Williams during



the World Cup finals two years ago. Bobby Robson suddenly discovered a winning formula when he reshaped his midfield and sent Beardsley in to join Lineker against Poland.

Anderson, whose "chronic knee condition" restricts his movement after but not during a game, would naturally fill the place of Stevens. Although the back four would

not be accustomed to each other, they would at least be familiar with Ireland's attacking formation, which is drawn from the League.

"We know them well," Robson said. "So we feel that we are equipped. When I decided to bring only three central defenders, I knew that I had a couple of full backs who could move across, should the need arise, and do the job. The good news is that Adams came through all right."

The bad news is that Lineker, England's lone reliable goalscorer, did not. Jostled and harried throughout the first half by an especially eager defender, he was "glad to get out of there". The price of his withdrawal was a twisted knee. It could limit his most powerful asset, his speed.

The probable absence of Steven, who damaged one hip at Aylesbury and the other at Heilbronn, has ushered Waddle even further into the side on the right. With Barnes on the left, England will therefore attack the Irish on both flanks where they are known to be the most vulnerable.

Several months ago Jack Charlton stated that he was not afraid of England "because they are predictable and they won't do anything different". The selection of the two wingers, if not of Stevens at the back, will confuse the plans he has been designing.

Through the faithful misfortune that similarly befell him halfway through the tournament in Mexico, Robson may now start the competition with the adventurous winger who would prefer to have avoided. As long as England's prolific centre forward is fit, the gamble should pay off.

Robson is not alone in believing that "the first goal will affect the game considerably." No one involved in the domestic warfare is anything like as dangerous as Lineker. On his own he could lead England away from the deep end and up to the bright lights of the surface.



Smiling through: Gary Lineker taking the day off yesterday to rest a leg injury

Brady is backing Hoddle

From Clive White, Stuttgart

Liam Brady is backing class to count in this European championship and is relieved to know that England are not doing the same.

A player with an intuitive feel for the game (who is tipping the Dutch to take the title) did not need to be at Heilbronn on Thursday evening when England laboured to a 4-0 victory against an amateur XI to know sense of any interesting developments in the Irish camp.

No one was more pleased than Jack Charlton, the Republic's adopted English manager, to see Hoddle perform so beautifully. "I think he was magnificent. How he gets in the England team I will never know."

"I think he is truly world class but unfortunately in the British way of things team organization comes first. I'm glad he's not playing."

While England's injury problems were mounting, the Irish are steadily on the mend, even though Moran and McCarthy chose to rest their minor knocks yesterday. Sheedy proved his recovery from a calf injury with an impressive display in training. If only one could say the same of Aldridge who looks as if he has not scored in 15 international matches.

One senses that Kelly will not be allowed to remain on the bench for long. Just as pertinent perhaps, is the question whether Hoddle will be allowed to remain there for England.

CYCLING

Dolomites attack by Swiss leaves Hampsten in peril

From John Wilcockson, Arta Terme, Italy

Urs Zimmermann, the Swiss who came third in the Tour de France two years ago, rekindled the dying embers of the 71st Giro d'Italia yesterday with a brave 80-mile breakaway on the 145-mile nineteenth stage from Borgo Valsugana.

He was beaten in the final sprint by his only companion, Stefano Giuliani, but his efforts moved Zimmermann, aged 28, into second place overall, less than two minutes behind Andy Hampsten, of the United States.

The Swiss began his attack on the narrow, steep Duran Pass in the imposing decor of the towering Dolomites. By the summit, he was 45 seconds ahead of Giuliani, who was leading the chase with his American team-mate, Jeff Pierce, and the Italians, Stefano Tomasini and Giuliani.

Zimmermann was one of three riders who had been penalized 10 minutes on Thursday for reporting late to the anti-doping control, but the penalties were lifted after an appeal, which left the Swiss rider 5min 10sec behind Hampsten.

The attack yesterday was predictable, but Zimmermann raced more strongly than anyone expected. After he had been joined on the Duran descent by Giuliani — who was lying 60th overnight — their lead over the

Hampsten group dramatically increased, reaching two minutes on the 5,000-ft Cibiani Pass.

With a favourable wind down the Cadore Valley and on the subsequent Mauria Pass, the gap reached seven minutes with 50 miles still remaining.

The picture began to change when three more of Hampsten's 7-Eleven team, rejoined the chasers in a group numbering 45 riders. But Zimmermann kept up the pressure and the lead was still six minutes 20 miles from home.

The pursuit continued all the way to the finish, with Hampsten proving himself a worthy leader by doing most of the pacemaking. At the line, the gap was just over three minutes, thus setting the scene for an exciting 27-mile time trial that concludes the three-week race at Vittorio Veneto tomorrow.

SEVENTEENTH STAGE: Borgo Valsugana to Arta Terme (145 miles). 1, S. Giuliani (Cannondale); 2, U. Zimmermann (7-Eleven); 3, P. Fagnin (at 3:08.4); 4, G. Sironi (Del Tongo); 5, R. Piccoli (at 3:10.1); 6, M. Vanni (at 3:11.1); 7, J. Lascaris (at 3:12.1); 8, M. Giarola (at 3:13.1); 9, V. Vito (at 3:14.1); 10, A. Hampsten (7-Eleven); 11, S. Giuliani (Cannondale); 12, S. Zimmermann (7-Eleven); 13, P. Fagnin (at 3:15.1); 14, G. Sironi (Del Tongo); 15, R. Piccoli (at 3:16.1); 16, M. Vanni (at 3:17.1); 17, J. Lascaris (at 3:18.1); 18, M. Giarola (at 3:19.1); 19, V. Vito (at 3:20.1); 20, A. Hampsten (7-Eleven); 21, S. Giuliani (Cannondale); 22, U. Zimmermann (7-Eleven); 23, P. Fagnin (at 3:21.1); 24, G. Sironi (Del Tongo); 25, R. Piccoli (at 3:22.1); 26, M. Vanni (at 3:23.1); 27, J. Lascaris (at 3:24.1); 28, M. Giarola (at 3:25.1); 29, V. Vito (at 3:26.1); 30, A. Hampsten (7-Eleven); 31, S. Giuliani (Cannondale); 32, U. Zimmermann (7-Eleven); 33, P. Fagnin (at 3:27.1); 34, G. Sironi (Del Tongo); 35, R. Piccoli (at 3:28.1); 36, M. Vanni (at 3:29.1); 37, J. Lascaris (at 3:30.1); 38, M. Giarola (at 3:31.1); 39, V. Vito (at 3:32.1); 40, A. Hampsten (7-Eleven); 41, S. Giuliani (Cannondale); 42, U. Zimmermann (7-Eleven); 43, P. Fagnin (at 3:33.1); 44, G. Sironi (Del Tongo); 45, R. Piccoli (at 3:34.1); 46, M. Vanni (at 3:35.1); 47, J. Lascaris (at 3:36.1); 48, M. Giarola (at 3:37.1); 49, V. Vito (at 3:38.1); 50, A. Hampsten (7-Eleven); 51, S. Giuliani (Cannondale); 52, U. Zimmermann (7-Eleven); 53, P. Fagnin (at 3:39.1); 54, G. Sironi (Del Tongo); 55, R. Piccoli (at 3:40.1); 56, M. Vanni (at 3:41.1); 57, J. Lascaris (at 3:42.1); 58, M. Giarola (at 3:43.1); 59, V. Vito (at 3:44.1); 60, A. Hampsten (7-Eleven); 61, S. Giuliani (Cannondale); 62, U. Zimmermann (7-Eleven); 63, P. Fagnin (at 3:45.1); 64, G. Sironi (Del Tongo); 65, R. Piccoli (at 3:46.1); 66, M. Vanni (at 3:47.1); 67, J. Lascaris (at 3:48.1); 68, M. Giarola (at 3:49.1); 69, V. Vito (at 3:50.1); 70, A. Hampsten (7-Eleven); 71, S. Giuliani (Cannondale); 72, U. Zimmermann (7-Eleven); 73, P. Fagnin (at 3:51.1); 74, G. Sironi (Del Tongo); 75, R. Piccoli (at 3:52.1); 76, M. Vanni (at 3:53.1); 77, J. Lascaris (at 3:54.1); 78, M. Giarola (at 3:55.1); 79, V. Vito (at 3:56.1); 80, A. Hampsten (7-Eleven); 81, S. Giuliani (Cannondale); 82, U. Zimmermann (7-Eleven); 83, P. Fagnin (at 3:57.1); 84, G. Sironi (Del Tongo); 85, R. Piccoli (at 3:58.1); 86, M. Vanni (at 3:59.1); 87, J. Lascaris (at 4:00.1); 88, M. Giarola (at 4:01.1); 89, V. Vito (at 4:02.1); 90, A. Hampsten (7-Eleven); 91, S. Giuliani (Cannondale); 92, U. Zimmermann (7-Eleven); 93, P. Fagnin (at 4:03.1); 94, G. Sironi (Del Tongo); 95, R. Piccoli (at 4:04.1); 96, M. Vanni (at 4:05.1); 97, J. Lascaris (at 4:06.1); 98, M. Giarola (at 4:07.1); 99, V. Vito (at 4:08.1); 100, A. Hampsten (7-Eleven); 101, S. Giuliani (Cannondale); 102, U. Zimmermann (7-Eleven); 103, P. Fagnin (at 4:09.1); 104, G. Sironi (Del Tongo); 105, R. Piccoli (at 4:10.1); 106, M. Vanni (at 4:11.1); 107, J. Lascaris (at 4:12.1); 108, M. Giarola (at 4:13.1); 109, V. Vito (at 4:14.1); 110, A. Hampsten (7-Eleven); 111, S. Giuliani (Cannondale); 112, U. Zimmermann (7-Eleven); 113, P. Fagnin (at 4:15.1); 114, G. Sironi (Del Tongo); 115, R. Piccoli (at 4:16.1); 116, M. Vanni (at 4:17.1); 117, J. Lascaris (at 4:18.1); 118, M. Giarola (at 4:19.1); 119, V. Vito (at 4:20.1); 120, A. Hampsten (7-Eleven); 121, S. Giuliani (Cannondale); 122, U. Zimmermann (7-Eleven); 123, P. Fagnin (at 4:21.1); 124, G. Sironi (Del Tongo); 125, R. Piccoli (at 4:22.1); 126, M. Vanni (at 4:23.1); 127, J. Lascaris (at 4:24.1); 128, M. Giarola (at 4:25.1); 129, V. Vito (at 4:26.1); 130, A. Hampsten (7-Eleven); 131, S. Giuliani (Cannondale); 132, U. Zimmermann (7-Eleven); 133, P. Fagnin (at 4:27.1); 134, G. Sironi (Del Tongo); 135, R. Piccoli (at 4:28.1); 136, M. Vanni (at 4:29.1); 137, J. Lascaris (at 4:30.1); 138, M. Giarola (at 4:31.1); 139, V. Vito (at 4:32.1); 140, A. Hampsten (7-Eleven); 141, S. Giuliani (Cannondale); 142, U. Zimmermann (7-Eleven); 143, P. Fagnin (at 4:33.1); 144, G. Sironi (Del Tongo); 145, R. Piccoli (at 4:34.1); 146, M. Vanni (at 4:35.1); 147, J. Lascaris (at 4:36.1); 148, M. Giarola (at 4:37.1); 149, V. Vito (at 4:38.1); 150, A. Hampsten (7-Eleven); 151, S. Giuliani (Cannondale); 152, U. Zimmermann (7-Eleven); 153, P. Fagnin (at 4:39.1); 154, G. Sironi (Del Tongo); 155, R. Piccoli (at 4:40.1); 156, M. Vanni (at 4:41.1); 157, J. Lascaris (at 4:42.1); 158, M. Giarola (at 4:43.1); 159, V. Vito (at 4:44.1); 160, A. Hampsten (7-Eleven); 161, S. Giuliani (Cannondale); 162, U. Zimmermann (7-Eleven); 163, P. Fagnin (at 4:45.1); 164, G. Sironi (Del Tongo); 165, R. Piccoli (at 4:46.1); 166, M. Vanni (at 4:47.1); 167, J. Lascaris (at 4:48.1); 168, M. Giarola (at 4:49.1); 169, V. Vito (at 4:50.1); 170, A. Hampsten (7-Eleven); 171, S. Giuliani (Cannondale); 172, U. Zimmermann (7-Eleven); 173, P. 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Gatting book in more trouble

By Alan Lee

More trouble loomed for Mike Gatting yesterday as his publishers claimed to be bewildered by reports that he wishes to withdraw the contentious sections from his autobiography.

Contrary to the statement issued from Lord's on Thursday, shortly after Gatting's dismissal as England captain, Queen Anne Press insisted it had not been asked to remove the chapter dealing with last winter's Pakistan tour and had no intention of doing so.

Alan Samson, the managing editor, explained: "The first I knew of this was when I saw Mike on television, reading a statement which said his solicitors and ours were discussing the withdrawal of the chapter. I feel slightly hurt because neither Mike nor his solicitors have said as much to me."

"I last spoke to Mike on Wednesday. He did say he was now unhappy about the chapter and he was obviously being put under pressure. But there was no request to take it out. I tried to phone him again last night but could not get through."

"Mike and I have spent many hours together, going through this book line by line. We had both agreed the finished product was fine. It is never too late. We could still alter it but we have no plans to do so."

"I don't want a confrontation and I am sorry that Mike is in this position but we intend to go ahead as planned. I suppose he may disown the book and I would have to accept that."

The book is due for publication later this month.

Gatting bats on with exuberance

Mike Gatting played in a six-a-side cricket competition at the Honourable Artillery Company in London yesterday as part of his benefit season. He helped his team to beat a side led by John Emburey, his successor as England captain.

Before going out to bat, Gatting received a pat of encouragement on the back by David Gower, who has also experienced being sacked as England captain. Gatting hit three sixes, one of which smashed a window.

Other England players — Paul Downton, Derek Pringle and Graham Gooch — were also present. The Press were denied entry to the function, though not photographers.

England look to Emburey's lead

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

John Emburey, who might have been the England captain long ago but for incurring the wrath of the authorities by touring South Africa, finally got the job yesterday at the ironical expense of his dismissed Middlesex team colleague, Mike Gatting.

Emburey will lead England on his home ground at Lord's next Thursday, although his appointment is at present for one Test only. He comes into office at an unenviable time, while the game reels from the latest character assassinations, but it is a job Emburey has craved for years and he is complaining about neither the timing nor the tenure.

"I have got to get the team together after what has happened," he said last night. "We must all help to put cricket back on the road. Although I have only been given one game I hope to do well enough to carry on. I have made no secret of wanting to be England captain and I am pleased despite the circumstances."

Emburey, aged 35, has played 54 Tests and has been regarded as England's premier off-spinner for almost a decade. For three of those years, however, he was serving an international suspension, along with his inseparable friend, Graham Gooch, for playing in South Africa. During this period, the Middlesex captaincy, to which he was the acknowledged heir, passed instead to Gatting, who subsequently graduated to lead England in 1986. Now, the wheel has turned full circle.

To add to the ironies, Emburey was called to Lord's yesterday while playing in a benefit game for Gatting, to which he later returned. Today, at Tunbridge Wells, Gatting will lead Middlesex against Kent... with Emburey as his vice-captain.

"It might seem a strange situation but I think it has happened before and I don't see why either of us should find it too difficult. We've both served under Mike Brearley so we will do certain things in similar ways but we also have individual ideas about captaincy."

Emburey came very close to changing counties last year in an attempt to further his ambition to lead his country. Warwickshire offered him the captaincy of their club and he agonized for weeks before deciding he would stay at Middlesex.

He was the clear favourite for the post, although Gooch's name was also mentioned. The likeliest long-term replacement, if Emburey cannot justify a run in the job, is Derbyshire's Kim Barnett, and he will have been a

candidate for Gatting's batting place. If there is to be consistency of thought, however, that should go to Matthew Maynard of Glamorgan.

Lamb is by no means certain to keep his place when the squad is named on Sunday, though a last chance is likely; among the bowlers, Small, fit again and in form, should logically return, in my view for DeFreitas. Two spinners being an improbable luxury at Lord's, I would also add Capel to the party instead of Hemmings.

The only other change I shall again recommend concerns the wicketkeeper. Downton, a justified choice for the one-day games, is patently not the best when it comes to a five-day Test and lengthy periods of standing up to spin. Surely now is the time to introduce Russell.

Emburey insists he is not concerned about his own bowling form, despite the mauling he received in Nottingham. He is, however, very concerned about the frame of mind of his players, a worry he shares with the manager, Micky Stewart.

"The players have been very adversely affected by this week's events," Stewart said. "We have some work to do before the game begins. I am personally sad that a lot of the qualities of the game, such as mixing socially with the opposition, must be cut back due to the world we live in, but it will be emphasized next Wednesday what is expected of every player."

The new management team, Londoners both, will not be dissimilar to the old. Emburey is more fulsome and forthright with words than Gatting, yet in other ways more reserved. He has, however, always got on well with Stewart and it must be a united hope that their partnership is effective and enduring.

statements expressing outrage over even being linked with such stories. They were entirely cleared after meeting the selectors, as were Paul Jarvis and Phillip DeFreitas.

So, Mike Gatting alone has carried the can for allegations he denies. His wife, Elaine, issued her own statement yesterday in which she regrets that her husband "appears to have been made a scapegoat."

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being one of the boys and the stuff shirts at Lord's had dealt him an injustice. It is, of course, precisely because he was being "one of the boys", rather than the demonstrably pure leader required, that Gatting had to go. The authorities had no choice. His departure, however, is not a self-contained episode; it begs a lot of awkward questions.

Who is to blame? If you were to

ask Allan Lamb, as he boarded a taxi yesterday after his personal hearing, you would have heard that it was the fault of the media. Lamb represents the players' widespread complaint that sections of the Press are unfairly hounding them. This syndrome, however regrettable, is unlikely to change, which means that if the image is to be cleaned up, the players must be more discreet and the management more vigilant.

It will be fascinating to see how John Emburey, the new captain, responds to the discipline problem. Already, tougher codes of conduct are being drawn up for his players because Alan Smith, the chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board, believes: "Events have shown that previous warnings about behaviour have not been wholly absorbed."

Privately, members of the board feel that Micky Stewart, the team manager, has been let down by his players, that he cannot be expected to watch over them day and night and that his trust has been abused.

Stewart himself, however, is now in a tricky position. Part of the reason for his appointment was to ensure disciplinary standards were improved — instead, whatever he may plead to the contrary, they have slipped alarmingly.

Lusty barmaids and late-night parties are one thing; arguing with umpires and demolishing stumps quite another. There have been times, too many of them, when Stewart has been seen to be defending the indefensible. Perhaps, to be kind, this is not because he is ducking the issue but because, unlike his footballing friend Bobby Robson, he is not in a position to rule more firmly.

Stewart was appointed from a short-list of three candidates. The



Seat of power: John Emburey at Lord's after being promoted to England captain yesterday

Gatting's disgrace leaves cricket in the gutter

By Alan Lee

If the men passing through the Grace Gates and into the meeting rooms at Lord's yesterday were bleak expressions, they were entirely appropriate. Their game is spending more time in the gutter than on the road; many more weeks like this and the repair bill could leave cricket bankrupt.

It might have been a good week, one to lift the spirits. England, after all, saved a Test match they might easily have lost. Peter May's pre-season hope that we could all start smiling again, was close to fulfilment. Then came the slap across the face.

We have lost an England captain in disgrace. Four other players, apparently innocent of all allegations, have reported, like errant schoolboys, to the headmaster. The uncommitted public feasts on the salacious title-tattle but the admin-

istrators wait in fear of sponsors pulling out of a game unable to maintain the required image.

On TV-am yesterday, viewers were asked to give, by phone, their opinion of the Gatting sackings. In little more than an hour, 15,000 calls flooded in, 75 per cent of them saying he was wrongly sacked. Gatting, they chorused, was just

Time to play a straight bat, page 10

being one of the boys and the stuff shirts at Lord's had dealt him an injustice. It is, of course, precisely because he was being "one of the boys", rather than the demonstrably pure leader required, that Gatting had to go. The authorities had no choice. His departure, however, is not a self-contained episode; it begs a lot of awkward questions.

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Stewart was appointed from a short-list of three candidates. The

other two, Ray Illingworth and David Brown, withdrew when it was made plain that their power would be limited, that the selection committee would remain and that the chairman of selectors would retain overall command. They were right.

The selection panel, made up of willing part-timers paid only expenses, is outmoded and that the England team should be chosen and supervised by two professionals, the captain and the manager, with all power for discipline invested in them. You cannot manage with one hand tied; equally, you cannot make excuses when everyone knows where the buck stops.

There are enormous sums of money circulating in cricket these days. Some of it, from sensitive sponsors, is at risk unless a more modern and professional attitude is adopted, both by the players and by those who administer them.

Of greater importance is the extension of closed-circuit television cameras throughout the League by next season. CCTV has proved itself a "strong deterrent to hooligan behaviour and a boon to effective policing."

Local plans drawn up between clubs and their police forces have made for better control in and around grounds, although the escalation in police charges (up 18 per cent on last season) is worrying and the Minister would be wise to come to the aid of football in this area.

Violence not purely English disease

On the community front football clubs are now linked with local authorities as never before and indeed councils have stepped in at the eleventh hour to save a number of clubs in recent seasons. The youth coaching schemes for boys (and girls too) are increasing under the FA's guidance. The problems of the season have been well documented and all too often football has been blamed for the difficulties society faces today.

The state of English football has to be considered in the European context. Only last week fights broke out between fans and police in Amsterdam over ticket sales for the matches in Germany, and without a football in sight. That violence occurs throughout Europe, does not excuse such incidents in England, but it does show that it is not purely an "English disease". Supporters clubs should be encouraged to demonstrate that the majority they represent are a credit to it.

When the Minister returns from Germany, he should think long and hard about re-entry into Europe before shooting from the hip as it is all too often his way. The European championship alone is not a fair way to judge English clubs. Manchester United has aided a return with their recent friendly versus AC Milan. Over 37,000 were present at Old Trafford, with a good number of Italians present yet there was not one arrest.

English clubs are certainly not perfect, nor can their future conduct in Europe be guaranteed. They do, however, deserve a fair hearing after the steps they have taken this season.

Honourable battle against drugs

By Steve Acteson

The contribution of Professor Raymond Brooks into the exposure of and battle against drug-taking in sport has been recognized with the award of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours list which is announced today.

Professor Brooks is sponsored by the Sports Council, which will this year spend almost £500,000 on drug testing and research. In 1969 he developed the means to detect the use of anabolic steroids and is a world authority on performance-enhancing drugs.



Doyle: MBE for cycling

Steve Davis, who receives an MBE, is the third world champion snooker player to be honoured; the others were Ray Reardon, MBE and Fred Davis, OBE.

Davis is a magnificent sporting ambassador for Britain and a shining example to the nation's youth in a game that has become increasingly tarnished.

The golfer, Laura Davies (MBE), is flying the flag for Britain in equally impressive manner. Still only 24, she was the leading money-earner in Europe for two years after turning professional in 1985 and then produced an outstanding performance to become the first European professional, last summer, to win the United States women's open championship.

The Ladies Professional Golf Association then changed its rules to allow

Davis to play the American circuit without going through the qualifying schools, and she has marked her debut season there with victories at Tucson and Toledo.

The cyclist, Tony Doyle (MBE), won a second 5,000 metres world professional pursuit championship in 1986, a title he first won within two weeks of turning professional in 1980 after being dropped as Britain's pursuit rider for the Moscow Olympic Games.

Although unsuccessful in his defence last August, Doyle, aged 30, is a leading performer on the European circuit. No Briton had previously won more than two six-day races since records were begun in 1899, but by 1986 Doyle had already won 10.

Clive Rowlands, of Wales, receives an OBE and Syd Millar, of Ireland, an MBE for services to Rugby Union. Rowlands, after winning 11 caps, was an inspirational coach to the Welsh national side from 1968-74 and later joined the panel of selectors.

Eddie Kulukundis, one of sport's leading patrons, receives an OBE. He succeeded Sir Leslie Porter as chairman of the Sports Aid Foundation on April 1, having been one of the body's governors since 1977. A devoted follower of athletics, Kulukundis has shipping interests and is a leading theatrical entrepreneur.

There are OBEs for Audrey Collins, the president of the Women's Cricket Association, and the English international angler, Tony Pawson.

MBEs go also to Cyril Cooper, the general secretary of the English Schools Cricket Association, to James Hatfield, the hole-in-the-heart yachtsman who is presently contesting the single-handed transatlantic race, for services to charity and to yachting, to Sally Haynes, the vice-president of the British Paralympic Sports Society and to Moira Ord, for services to netball.

Blyth concerned about safety

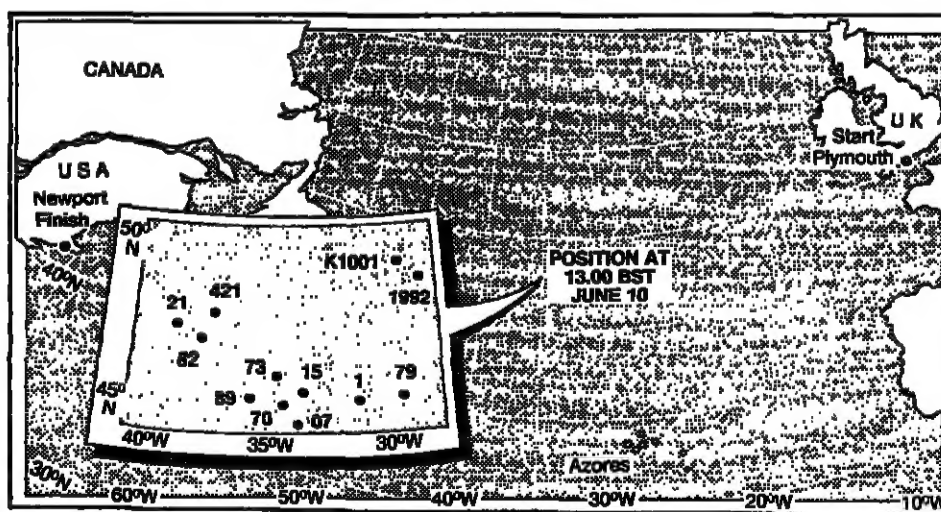
By Barry Pickthall

As yet another competitor retired from the Carlsberg transatlantic race after his yacht had been holed yesterday, Chay Blyth voiced his unease at the dangers modern multihulls now represent to other shipping when sailed alone.

The lone yachtsman, who helped popularize this side of the sport when he became the first to complete a west to east circumnavigation alone 17 years ago, warned: "It is only a question of time before someone outside the race is killed by one of these boats. It was all right in the old days because the monohulls only did seven to eight knots and would always come off worse in a collision with a ship."

"But now the north Atlantic is one of the busiest shipping routes in the world, and these modern multihulls are speeding along at 15 to 20 knots. When sailing alone you can't keep a proper watch, and if one of these craft hit one of the many fishing boats in fog off the Grand Banks, for instance, three-quarters of a ton of mast will come crashing down."

Blyth's controversial com-



The leaders in the Carlsberg Transatlantic Race at 1300 BST yesterday (five days after they had left Plymouth) were approaching 40° West and between 45° and 50° North: 21, P. Poupon (Fleury)

ments follow a hard-hitting article published in a recent issue of *Yachting World* magazine, which called on the Royal Yachting Association to ban single-handed sailing altogether.

Yesterday's casualty, bringing the number of retirements

Michon, Fr; 82, L. Peyron (Lada) Poch, Fr; 421, C. Moussy (Laurie West St. Michel, Fr); 59, P. Siegel (Sebag, US); 73, B. Peyron (VSD, Fr); 70, F. Arthaud (Groupe Pierre Premier, Fr); 67, J. Maurer (Est Aquitaine III, Fr); 15, H. Terlain (UAP 1992, Fr).

Michon, was 1,427 miles from the Newport finish and looking to set a new record, inside 13 days.

Tony Bullimore, of Great Britain, sailing Spirit of Apricot, remained ninth, trailing the leading trimaran by 287 miles.

IAC warns of penalties over payment

The International Athletics Club has advised competitors not to unreservedly accept invitations to compete at Portsmouth next weekend.

Mike Winch, the IAC chairman, has informed competitors that acceptance of the invitation is also a contract under this year's subventions package, to govern payments.

The package, compiled by Andy Norman and the joint standing committee, particularly clause eight, has not been approved by the Board Council. Clause eight forbids an athlete to decline an invitation to a subvention meeting and then compete anywhere else "two days before or four days after".

Women in doubt

Hana Mandlikova, the world's No. 8 women's tennis player, is doubtful for Wimbledon after withdrawing from the Bank of Scotland grass-court championships in Edinburgh yesterday through illness.

Mandlikova has not recovered from a stomach virus and has pulled out of next week's Pilkington Glass tournament at Eastbourne.

The British No. 1, Anne Hobbs, will not play at Wimbledon after two operations in six months have failed to solve a long standing shoulder injury.

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SPORT IN BRIEF

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Platini on trial

Lyon (AFP) — Michel Platini has been committed for trial for his part in a £575,000 slush fund run by St Etienne, his former football club.

Judge change

Davos (Reuters) — The International Skating Union (ISU) has decided it will no longer link the nomination of judges to a country's success.

Coaching post

Adelaide (Reuters) — Barry Richards, the South African batsman, will coach South Australia for the next two Sheffield Shield cricket seasons. Richards, aged 42, was also act as consultant coach at the Australian Cricket Academy here.

England preview, page 40

Police will be out in force

From John Goodbody
Stuttgart
and Howard Foster
London

A total of 1,500 German police, supported by 700 security officers, will be deployed today for tomorrow's match between England and the Republic of Ireland, amid fears that if there is severe and sustained hooliganism in the European championship then the national team could follow the English clubs by being banned from international competition.

English football is on trial, particularly in view of the recent violence.

No more tickets are now being sold and the English supporters have been screened against lists of known trouble-makers by the Football Association, the only official supplier in Britain.

A London ticket agency admitted yesterday that it had supplied tickets for the match between England and the Netherlands on Wednesday, despite strict control of distribution by the English Football Association.

The FA, which had carefully screened the recipients of 8,000 tickets for England's matches in West Germany, had also been relieved to learn that the German authorities had banned the sale of tickets for the matches in Germany a few days ago.

However, following a television news investigation by BBC's *Breakfast Time*, it emerged that Dial-a-Ticket ticket agents of The Strand, London, had obtained a pair of tickets for the England-Netherlands match for a BBC reporter, posing as a football supporter.

Tear gas, shields, mounted police, dogs and even guns "as a last resort" will be available to the police and also reinforcements have been put on stand-by.

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END COLUMN

Time to come to aid of football

By Tom Pendry MP

Chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party Sports Committee and the All Party Football Committee

This weekend the Minister for Sport, Colin Moynihan, will fly to West Germany to watch England's first match in the European football championship. On his narrow shoulders will rest the hopes of English football clubs for a return to the European club competition.

Unfortunately, the match tomorrow against the Republic of Ireland, will be the focus of the football world's attention for the wrong reasons. The Minister and the media at large will, perhaps understandably, be far less interested in the prowess of Bobby Robson's talented squad than in any outbreaks of hooliganism on foreign soil.

The problems which have bedevilled English football since Heyes and the Minister's views on the re-entry of English clubs to Europe will preoccupy those who would normally judge the England team's performance.

Police forces have better control

Mr Moynihan spent most of last season pronouncing on the problems of our national game. Now when it comes to making a recommendation to UEFA regarding English clubs, he refuses to express an opinion.

UEFA must of course make the final decision on readmission, but the Minister should face up to his real responsibilities and present an honest balance sheet on the progress English football has made over the last three years. He has been too prone to make political capital out of football's present difficulties instead of giving the game the kind of support it needs as the one Minister charged with responsibility for its welfare.

The football authorities have rather belatedly faced up to the difficult challenges of recent seasons and are clearly moving in the right direction. The membership schemes that were introduced in consultation with the Minister and the All Party Football Committee are by no means the answer but they have helped with crowd segregation.

Of greater importance is the extension of closed-circuit television cameras throughout the League by next season. CCTV has proved itself a "strong deterrent to hooligan behaviour and a boon to effective policing."

Local plans drawn up between clubs and their police forces have made for better control in and around grounds, although the escalation in police charges (up 18 per cent on last season) is worrying and the Minister would be wise to come to the aid of football in this area.

Violence not purely English disease

On the community front football clubs are now linked with local authorities as never before and indeed councils have stepped in at the eleventh hour to save a number of clubs in recent seasons. The youth coaching schemes for boys (and girls too) are increasing under the FA's guidance. The problems of the season have been well documented and all too often football has been blamed for the difficulties society faces today.

The state of English football has to be considered in the European context. Only last week fights broke out between fans and police in Amsterdam over ticket sales for the matches in Germany, and without a football in sight. That violence occurs throughout Europe, does not excuse such incidents in England, but it does show that it is not purely an "English disease". Supporters clubs should be encouraged to demonstrate that the majority they represent are a credit to it.

When the Minister returns from Germany, he should think long and hard about re-entry into Europe before shooting from the hip as it is all too often his way. The European championship alone is not a fair way to judge English clubs. Manchester United has aided a return with their recent friendly versus AC Milan. Over 37,000 were present at Old Trafford, with a good number of Italians present yet there was not one arrest.

English clubs are certainly not perfect, nor can their future conduct in Europe be guaranteed. They do, however, deserve a fair hearing after the steps they have taken this season.

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